



Hanabokuro

花黒子

魔除人 2

～ 土の勇者篇 ～



MFマックス

Exterminator

— Kujonin —

- Volume 2 - The Traveling Exterminator

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[Hon'yaku]

Chapter 15

Around the time the day started to darken, I drew a magic circle in the grassland along the side of the road and laid out for rabbit furs.

Setting up an open fire, I lit it with life magic.

I toasted the dried meat a little over the fire, made a soup, and had dinner.

Rain and bugs can't get in the magic circle.

It's a bit away from the road, so I probably won't be bothered.

The sky is full of stars.

I have leisure to spare to enjoy herb tea.

The situation of whoever is following me is currently being in the shadow of the trees in the forest, looking this way.

Even though it's nighttime, it's warm so he'll manage, I guess.

For caution's sake, I set up traps in the area.

Watching the bonfire, I calmed down and became sleepy.

To the point where, if I sat down, I'd fall asleep.

When I woke up, in the bushes nearby there was a person caught in a trap.

The guy who was following me, I guess.

When I went to look, it was the swordswoman Guild instructor entangled in the ivy, struggling.

Before releasing her from the trap, I'll interrogate her.

"Why is a Guild staff member like you following me?"

"I have already stopped being a Guild instructor. I am only a mere adventurer."

“Then Adventurer... Ayl-san, was it? Do you need something from me?”

“Be... before that, could you please cut this ivy?”

“Do you intend to harm me?”

“Aa, I have no intentions of harming you. In the first place, you’re so much stronger than me so how... A-, could you cut it soon? It’s... a weird place...”

I broke the edge of the magic circle, and when I released the trap the ivy that was wrapped around Ayl melted.

“Fuu-, I’m saved. Just what kind of trap did you set up!”

“It would be better if you didn’t move too much, you know. Since I’ve set up a lot in this area.”

Ayl froze.

“Please follow my footsteps.”

Ayl followed along in my footsteps until we were by the campfire.

I sit directly on the ground, opposite Ayl across the campfire.

“And so, the reason you were following me is?”

“Would you have another match with me?”

“Aa, so you’re a battle junkie. I’m not interested in comparing strength, so do it with someone else.”

“You have no interest in comparing strength, and yet you’re, to that degree...”

Ayl stares at me with a shocked expression.

“It just happened. Because of work, my level rises really well.”

“Work, you say!?”

“It’s pest extermination. Here it would be monster and magic beast extermination, wouldn’t it?”

“Extermination... is extermination different from subjugation?”

“Wouldn’t it be different? Subjugating just 1 would still be subjugation, right? Extermination is different at that part, because you have to wipe out an entire species.”

“Wipe out!? How would you do that? After the test, I’d heard from Irene that you had destroyed a hive of vespahornets, but...”

“That was just making preparations, setting a trap, and having the other party move the way you want them to, that’s all.”

“I don’t understand.”

As if she was taken aback, Ayl’s shoulders drooped.

“Um~ well, please just think that these kinds of techniques exist too.”

“If I follow you, will I be able to understand?”

“Do you still intend to follow me?”

“Is that not good?”

“I had planned to be traveling alone, so I haven’t thought much about traveling companions

“Won’t it be fine? When monsters come out I’ll fight them.”

“Even though you’re weaker than me?”

“...Th,that’s right.”

“Then, is there anything you can’t do? How about cooking?”

“I’m not good at cooking, but I’m pretty good at dismantling monsters.”

“Aa, but if I go to a town then I can buy meat.”

“Th,then... n,night service would be okay, but...”

Do the women in this world not have any chastity? I hold my head in my hands.

“Let’s stop with the night service. When it feels like I can’t endure it anymore, I’ll go at it in a brothel.”

“It costs money, right?”

“I get it. Ayl-san will dismantle the monsters. You’ll skin the pelts and cut up the meat. In the unlikely even that Ayl-san and I fall in love, we’ll do the night service.”

“I, is that so? Roger. However, if I can’t endure it anymore, I’ll be relying on you!”

“I’ll handle it with discretion. For now, it’s already late, so will you sleep?”

“Right.”

I laid down on the forabbit skins and used the cloak the sheep beastmen had brought as a comforter and slept.

Ayl put on some fur something or other and, while sitting, slept.

The next morning, at a time before the sky turned light, I awoke to a monster’s cry.

Looking towards the direction of the cry, there’s a large wild boar caught in a trap.

Ayl had just stabbed it to death.

She told me that she wanted to take it to the forest adjacent to the grasslands to drain the blood, so could I help?

She said we’d carry it by the head and feet.

I by myself lifted it up and hung it on a tree in the forest.

As always, Ayl was flabbergasted, but it won’t do for her not to get used to it, so I just taught her that I could do this much.

Thanks to my level, my status also rose.

Before I left on my journey, the numbers Sera saw were

Level 72

Endurance: 419

Mana: 297

Dexterity: 298

Strength: 320

Defense: 298

Wisdom: Unknown

Skill

Language Ability

Life Magic Level 5, Clean Up

Fire Magic Level 1

Compounding Skill Level 10
Search Skill Level 10
Pharmacy Skill Level 10
Alchemy Level 10
Arithmetic Level 10
Magic Circle Studies Level 10
Craftship Level 10
Magic Tool Production Skill Level 10

The leftover skill points are 13.

Is how it is.

It seems to be rising well.

Ayl cut the neck of the field boar hung from the tree, and the blood flowed steadily.

I used a magic circle to open up a hole on the ground and the blood gathered in it.

It doesn't have a particular use, but the blood will lure monsters in; it's bothersome so I'll cover it up to the degree I am able.

When the blood had been drained, Ayl slashed open the stomach and the innards fell into the hole.

I thought it was very grotesque, but when I thought that this is how it is when you eat an existence, I didn't feel as bad.

She put a notch in the skin and quickly stripped it.

Just as I said, Ayl's work is nice.

In just a few minutes, the meat was also cut up.

"If you know where to cut it, it's just sticking your blade there, so it's simple."

Ayl sharpened her meat carving knife while being embarrassed.

For the cheek meat and the like, she told me that if you have a knife strictly for this purpose, then you can cut it off more cleanly.

“This is pretty specialized stuff.”

I say, impressed.

From yesterday to today, we’ve already moved to casual speech.

“It’s because, when I was still a beginner adventurer, even when I joined up with parties I did this all the time, see. I feel that it’s thanks to that, that my knife handling skills got so good.”

“So are we taking all of this with?”

“It would be nice if we had a bag that we could put as much as we wanted into, but we’ll have to leave some of it behind.”

“As much... ha!? Wait a second.”

I forgot! I didn’t make an item bag!

From my rucksack I took needle and thread dipped in mana water (magic stone powder dissolved in water) and sewed a magic circle on a pouch.

After about an hour, I finally made an item bag you can put anything in.

The magic circle was complex, so just making it took some time.

During that time, Ayl rubbed salt and pepper onto the meat, preparing it.

“I’m pretty sure, when I partied up once, the guy in charge of cooking did this.”

As I thought, her long experience as an adventure taught her all sorts of things that help out.

After that, the stripped off pelt was tanned into leather.

“So? What is this pouch?”

“It’s an item bag. You can put whatever and however much in, and take it out easily. Maa, showing you would be quicker.”

I put the field boar’s meat in steadily.

Using these magic tools that defy the laws of physics completely is truly fun.

Taking it out is also easy.

When I showed Ayl, she lowered her voice and scolded, “You’d better not show this

magic tool to any merchants.”

“True, the very foundation of transport might be broken. And so, Ayl, could I have a 1 drop of your blood? I want to make it an item bag only Ayl and I can use; if any other guys can use it, it could be troublesome.”

“Got it.”

Ayl cut her own finger with a knife and dripped a drop of blood on the magic circle.

I also borrowed the knife and dripped a drop on the magic circle.

On top of that, I did one more piece of embroidery and the personalized item bag was finished.

“With this, not only can you put as much meat as you want in it, it also won’t spoil.”

“Wha!? What did you say!? It won’t rot?”

“Right. Based on how fresh it was when it enters, it will be preserved.”

“Oh, Naoki. Right now you just made an artifact-grade magic tool. Do you have any self-awareness?”

“Nope, none. As I thought, if too many people know about me, it could be bad, huh?”

“Of course. You’ll cause a war. Why did you allow your slaves to part from you?”

Ayl held her head.

“Well, it’s fine, isn’t it? If Ayl keeps quiet, there’s no problems. Rather than that, we’ve taken up a lot of time. Our luggage has also lightened up, so let’s hurry on ahead.”

“Hang on. Right now, did you neglect to mention anything?”

“Let’s hurry.”

I hung the item bag on my shoulder and stuffed all of our luggage that was sitting beside the campfire in.

I tried to stuff all of Ayl’s luggage in too, but she refused, saying she’ll carry her own things.

However, just put in her large luggage as well as the field boar fur and the furs she

uses when sleeping; that's what she handed over.

Things like that she properly did so.

Chapter 16

Once again we're proceeding down the road.

When the two of us walked side-by-side, the merchants riding wagons going in the opposite direction called out, "Kaa-! Ain't it good to be young?"

"Looks like it would be better to walk a little farther apart, huh?"

Ayl began to walk a little ways behind me.

I, who was walking in front, was in charge of the midday break and the like.

It was decided that, whenever monsters come out, whoever spots them goes on ahead.

Basically, because I have the Search skill, I find them first.

However, as a defensive measure against monsters, I had prepared a confusion bell, so even if we encountered them, they pretty much all destroyed themselves.

This confusion bell is just a normal bell with a magic circle drawn on it so that monsters that hear the sound won't come out.

It's something that I made with a magic stone from that time when we exterminated goblins.

The confusion was applied by me, so the experience came to me.

I have found another way to gain experience even without combat.

In the case that several monsters show up, they attack each other so the weak monsters' levels rise.

In that case, their experience increases so that Ayl, who defeats them, level rises; the person herself is delighted.

Until we reached the next town, all the encounters with monsters, rare as they might be, ended in that fashion.

Written on a board, the name of the town next to Kubenia is called Oslo.

Thanks to the skill, it seems I'm able to read the words.

We showed our cards to the guard and entered in.

"That Sword Demon Ayl-san!? It's an honor!"

The guard that met Ayl seemed to be overcome with emotion and shouted.

Ayl embarrassedly scratched her head.

Since there isn't any particular reason for me to wait for her, I began to search for an inn for the night.

"O,oi, Naoki, wait for me."

In a panic, Ayl half-ran to my side.

"Is that fine? He's your fan."

"Aa, forget that, don't leave me behind."

"It's fine. I have the Search skill, so I can at least determine what's a good place."

"Not that, I won't be able to tell where Naoki is."

"What, so that's it. If Ayl also takes the Search skill, it would be convenient."

"Don't say it like it's that easy. Unlike you, I'm at level 28, you know!"

It seems that Ayl has taken Sword Arts, Unarmed Combat, Dismantling, and Light Magic.

I was just thinking that we should tell each other to be on the safe side, since we're traveling companions, when she told me first.

She didn't tell me the skill levels.

It's a pain, so all I told her was "All sorts."

Although, I did tell her that I didn't have Unarmed Combat.

My level went up so I might need some kind of combat skill, but before that I want resistance skills.

There isn't much information on resistances; it seems that if I don't ask a high-leveled

adventurer, I won't figure it out.

"So, about today's inn, this town should also have a Guild, right?"

"There is. There's also an inn established with it, so it would be fine there for today, right?"

"That's true. A, I didn't tell you, but I didn't get paid my reward from the Guild, so I don't have much on hand."

"I see. I have quite a bit, so should I lend it to you?"

"No, once we get an inn, I want to immediately take a request, though."

"Got it. And there I can see how you work."

"Who knows. It depends on the request."

"A, here it is."

Ayl knows where the Guild is located, so she lead me there.

Ayl seems to be an adventurer centralized on the eastern side of the Alisfay Kingdom, so she's familiar with the towns around here.

It looks like this town's style and scale isn't too different from Kubenia.

However it feels like there are more beastmen and slaves than in Kubenia.

"The reason there are a lot of slaves is because a slave trader is established in this town. Kubenia's slave trader went out of business. The daughter there got sick, see."

Ayl said, looking off into the distance.

The place the vespahornets were might have been the Kubenia-n slave trader's place.

I remember there were herbs to prevent sickness planted there.

The daughter might have had a sickness like leukemia.

The inn in the Guild is 20 Notts a night, that's 2 silver coins.

Ayl and I each rented our own rooms.

By the way, it seems that staying in the large common room is 5 Notts.

Previously I had given all the money I had to the two former slaves, set out on the journey penniless, and just now sold the field boar to the inn's eatery for 50 Notts, 5 silver coins.

We split that between two people, so what I have left right now is 5 Notts, 5 copper coins.

If I don't do anything, I'll be staying in the common room tomorrow night.

"If you really run out of money, I'll lend you some, though?" (Ayl)

"No, it's fine. It's just me doing what I want, so don't worry about it."

We went to the Guild and looked at the F Rank requests available on the board.

"E Ranks also have escort work, so wouldn't it be better to raise your rank?"

So said the B Rank Ayl.

"Oi, isn't that the Sword Demon Ayl?"

"For real?"

"With that bikini armor, it definitely is. Although I heard that she became the instructor at Kubenia."

"But who's that guy wearing the weird clothes next to her?"

"Isn't it Ayl's man?"

"That guy? He looks weak, though."

"That guy is looking at F Rank requests."

"For Ayl to be supporting an F Rank adventurer is..."

You can hear adventurers' voices from the eating area.

"See? Naoki, if you don't raise your rank you'll get made fun of."

Ayl elbowed me and said in a small voice.

“It’s fine. Don’t mind it. It happens all the time.”

“Is it okay for a man to be made fun of?”

“It probably doesn’t matter whether you’re a man or a woman. Besides, those guys have low levels. Being concerned about it is just a waste of time. If there was a high level adventurer, I’d like to ask him about resistance skills, though.”

“Resistance skill, huh? Would there really be someone who has that?”

“Have you never seen one?”

“Never.”

The existence of resistance skills has suddenly become dangerous.

I had thought that since there are useful skills like Magic Circles, it must exist.

In fact, my coverall has Magic Resistance, Slash Resistance, Poison Resistance, Paralysis Resistance, and Sleep Resistance sewn into it.

As long as I’m not hit on the parts showing skin, I should be fine.

“I’ll give up on resistance skills for now. In the meantime, let’s do this request.”

I pulled off a request from the board.

“Is that fine? This place is the slave trader’s shop.”

The request I had taken was extermination of the bagroaches, a bug-type monster.

“It’s fine, right? Is there some kind of problem with it?”

“No, it’s fine. You’re a man after all. But bagroaches are generally monsters that don’t have a lot of experience in them.”

“It’s not like I’m particularly going for the experience, my goal is the money, so it’s fine.”

“I see. Is it okay if I take a request for myself? It feels like the bagroach subjugation won’t be anything worth watching.”

“Yeah, do as you like.”

At long last, it looks like Ayl’s reason for following me is gone.

“I’ll do this.”

Ayl took a B Rank request for subjugating finek monsters.

Fineks are large snake monsters, and seem to be quite strong. Not that I'd know.

I presented the written request and my Adventurer Card to the receptionist and parted from Ayl in front of the Guild.

I asked a person heading into town where the slave trader's place is, and despite making a disgusted face, I reached the residence in that area of the town.

I was asked what my business was as a guest by the doorguards at the door, and when I showed them the written request and explained I was from the Adventurer Guild, they showed me to the rear entrance.

When I had entered the rear entrance, an elderly woman wearing exactly what you could call maid clothes looked me up and down with a lingering gaze.

"Hm hm hm. You're wearing clothes that look like they could be for laboring. Very well. Do you have any interest in freeing slaves?"

"No, not particularly."

"Is that so. These slaves are our goods, so please do not needlessly touch or talk to them."

"Understood. The scope of the extermination, is it this entire mansion?"

"That's right."

"I see. I think it will take some time to completely exterminate all of them, but is that alright?"

"All of them?"

"Yes."

"Is that even possible?"

"Yeah. I think it will take 2, 3 days. If everyone in the building were to leave, it would be done much faster, but it seems it would disturb business, and no matter what it would take some time."

"I understand. Go ahead, rather than 3 days, you're welcome to take 1 week or even 2

weeks.”

“About the reward.”

“Yes, it’s as written in the request. 1 bagroach is 2 Notts.”

A masmascarl is 5 Notts, so that’s how it is.

“Then I will begin working. I think it will smell up a little, but it won’t have any effect on the human body. If it bothers you, please feel free to open the window.”

I cover my mouth with a towel with magic circles drawn on it.

First is the kitchen, so I installed sticky boards in the cracks and corners, cautioned the cooks not to step on them, and examined the shelves.

Since there are droppings particular to the bagroach there, I left some insecticide dumplings.

Next I went around the rooms on the first floor, spraying insect repellant in the corners.

Here is where the nozzle and pump I made previously came in handy.

When the contents in the tank ran out, I borrowed the backyard and made more repellant.

Around when I finished with the 1st floor, the residence’s cooks called me to come over.

When I went into the kitchen to look, the bagroaches were stuck in large quantities on the sticky boards.

Without panicking, I wrapped up those sticky boards in towels and once again placed new sticky boards.

Looks like there are quite a number of bagroaches in this residence.

Using the Search skill, I discovered that there were nests in the basement.

“Would it be alright if I see the basement?”

I asked the maid woman I had met at the beginning.

“I don’t mind, but there are slaves there so be careful. There is the possibility of them trying to seduce you, and also the possibility of them attacking you. I thought you should know before you go.”

“Thank you very much.”

“It’s this way.”

The maid led me to the basement.

By the way, I also sprayed repellant at the stairs that led to the basement.

I can tell with the Search skill that the bagroaches are running to the walls.

The basement is practically a prison; the corridor continues in a u shape.

“Since it seems that they also appear in the cells, can you remove the slaves for a bit?”

“That is impossible.”

“Is that so. I won’t be able to go easy on them, but is that okay? I can hand over Recovery potions after.”

I’m in front of the cell of a beastman slave with a wolf’s face, that looks like it has the most battle prowess.

“Yes. If we’re talking about these slaves, then it won’t matter how many times you hurt them. That is, if you can do so.”

The maid half-smirked, and the wolf beastman glared at me as if he would bite me through the iron bars.

When I hit the nose that was sticking outside of the bars, he hit the opposite wall and fainted.

Taking custody of the key from the dumbfounded maid, I opened the iron bar door and used the Life Magic, Cleanup.

When it became clean, I sprayed insect repellant and put insecticide dumplings in the cracks of the stone walls.

I sprinkled a little Recovery Potion on the wolf beastman and he woke up.

I calmed the beastman who shook when he saw me and locked the iron-barred door.

All of the slaves saw this, so the rest of it went easily.

“If you behave, I won’t hit you.”

When I said this, all of them obediently listened to what I said.

When I had finished with all of the slaves' rooms, I reported that I wanted to go further down to the basement's 2nd floor.

At first the maid said there wasn't a room like that, but when I said I couldn't exterminate all the bagroaches if I didn't go to all the rooms, she reluctantly opened the room in the back.

I thought the 2nd floor would be a torture room, but it was a warehouse.

There are a lot of strange things, maybe illegal goods.

It's the slave merchant's hobby, I guess.

I placed sticky boards in the room's 4 corners and spread out insecticide dumplings.

The bagroaches' nest is in this room's walls.

I thrust the nozzle into a crack in the room's stone walls and sprayed.

Instantly, the escaping bagroaches scattered in all directions.

The female maid saw that and swooned.

I told her that, now that I've attacked the nest, they might pop up in other places, and then we returned.

Checking the kitchen, I retrieved the sticky boards with bagroaches stuck to them, and placed sticky boards again.

Waking the female maid, I showed her the sticky boards with bagroaches and let her know I had subjugated 24 of them.

Receiving 48 Notts, I told her I'd be back again tomorrow.

I borrowed a corner of the back yard and burned the retrieved sticky boards, turning them to charcoal.

I told the female maid, who saw me to the gate, that tomorrow there was probably going to be a large amount of dead bagroaches, and so she should prepare a bag; then I returned to the inn.

Chapter 17

I paid for two days' stay for the inn, and when I went into the cafeteria, Ayl had returned.

Her entire body was covered in mud, and she looked exhausted.

This kind of thing might be normal for an adventurer.

I used Cleanup on her, and when I handed her a restorative she immediately drained it.

"Thanks, you saved me." (Ayl)

"Did your subjugation go well?" (Naoki)

"Aa, I defeated it, but it's a job that isn't worth the price." (Ayl)

"This restorative is amazing. It can heal a bone fracture too? Isn't it expensive?" (Ayl)

"No, I made it myself, so it's just the cost of the ingredients. And those were things I received, so in actuality the cost is zero."

"Naoki can do anything, huh?"

"It's not like I can do anything, you know? I learned it while I was exterminating monsters."

"Tomorrow I'm going to do a different request."

"I see. I'm going to do the same as today."

"Is the reward that great?"

"I wonder. Anyway, it looks like I'll be sticking with it for another 2 days."

"Really? That's amazing. I won't give in either."

Like that we entered the cafeteria and ate our meal together.

It seems Ayl's reward was 200 Notts, 2 gold coins.

“As expected of B Rank.”

“This is actually on the cheap side. Even so, I even suffered a bone fracture. If it weren’t for Naoki’s restorative, it would have been a huge loss.”

“An adventurer’s body is an investment, after all.”

“That’s right. Un, delicious! Field boar meat really is delicious, na!”

Ayl said so while gobbling field boar meat.

There was also an event where Ayl punched the adventurers who came to get involved with me flying, but in general, I guess it was a lively, exciting, adventurer-like dinner.

The liquor is also setting in, so with this slightly tipsy feeling I go to sleep.

The next morning, leaving the sleepy-eyed Ayl at the Guild, I went to the slave trader mansion.

At the mansion there were the dead bagroaches, so I scooped them out with small bug nets that I had prepared and put them in bags.

In the morning I recovered all the bagroaches on the first floor and basement, putting them in bags.

The bags have already become 3 bags.

Continuing on, I go to the 2nd and 3rd floors that I didn’t look at yesterday.

There wasn’t much there, but there was masmascarl in the attic.

When I asked if I should exterminate them, “Please definitely exterminate them,” was the situation.

Going to the attic, I used Cleanup and placed the rat-killer dango.

In the time while I was waiting, the fat slave trader came to make his greetings.

“Are you interested in slaves?”

He asked while his greasy face was sweating.

He seems flustered.

The reward for subjugating what has become 1,000 bagrouches would be 2,000 Notts,

that is 20 gold coins.

In short, he wants to pay with slaves.

I don't have that much interest in slaves, but the need for gold coins; about that, I also don't have that much attachment to money.

Just when I was thinking about what I should do, he began referring me to all sorts of slaves.

Saying that fundamentally the hard working people here are slaves, so the employees are also slaves.

When I said that, if that was the case, then I'd be glad with someone who could cook, he had all the cooks line up.

All of them were over 30 gold coins.

"I don't have the remainder, so this time I'm not going to go for it."

"Is that so?"

When I refused, the slave trader pulled a disappointed face.

It's about the right time for the masmascarl to be wiped out, so I went into the attic and stuffed the corpses in a bag.

Altogether there are probably about 50 of them.

If you reckon 1 is 5 Notts, then it's 250 Notts.

If you add the bagroaches' part then it's 2250 Notts, 22 gold coins and 5 silver coins.

The slave trader's sweat becomes unstoppable.

"If you don't have enough on hand, I'm okay with waiting for a future day."

"No, that's against our principles."

The sweat on his forehead is painful to see.

Living in such a mansion and even smuggling but having no money is strange.

Is he reluctant to spend?

Or could it be that he's mired in debt so that this mansion and everything is put on mortgage?

For now, while I drink the herb tea they put out, I wait.

“If it’s me, would I do?”

The lady maid suddenly said.

“Teyl.”

“I have not previously served as a sex slave, and my price is not yet that high. If it’s cooking, I can do it to some degree. Would that serve?”

“Even if you say that, how much would it be?”

“20 gold coins.”

“Then, this girl please.”

“Teyl, if you leave, then who will govern the maids?”

The slave trader said to her, as if he was clinging to the maid.

“It will be fine, you know. Everyone will properly manage. Isn’t that right?”

“”””Yes ma’am.””””

All the maids responded in one voice.

“It will be fine. Master, if you get back on track, you’ll be able to take back the mansion.”

The maid said, as if to persuade the master.

Somehow, the mansion already belonging to the slave trader – is not how it seems.

“Further more, Mistress will prefer this way, right?”

“I got it. I will sell you. Then, Naoki-san was it? I leave Teyl to you.”

And that’s what happened.

During the time the maid Teyl-san was gathering her luggage together, I burned the bagroaches and masmaskarl in the back garden and waited outside the gate.

Teyl-san exchanged departing words with the mansion’s people and came out of the gate.

From her hand hung a leather bag.

“Thank you for waiting. Although I may be inexperienced, please treat me well.”

So saying, she handed me the leftover 250 Notts, 2 gold coins and 5 silver coins, in a pouch.

“Same here, please treat me well. Teyl-san.”

“Please don’t attach –san. Naoki-sama.”

“Understood.”

Teyl’s age is around 50 years, I suppose.

Her brown hair is bundled in the back; she truly gives you the feeling of a maid.

I wonder if I can deal with this person in the future.

Well, I guess I have no choice but to get used to her.

I’m her master and all.

When I returned to the Guild’s inn, it became a bit of a commotion.

It was the F Rank Adventurer in the coverall bringing along a grandma maid.

Everyone thought it was strange.

An F Rank adventurer returning with a slave; it shouldn’t be that she was the reward; even if the reward was to be a slave, Teyl was way past the age.

There was all sorts of incongruous things that didn’t fall into place.

But, when one of the adventurers said, “Isn’t it his mother?” the adventurers judged Teyl to be my mother and seemed to lose interest.

I wrapped up the request completion procedures with the receptionist.

When I said that I’d like to utilize one more room in the inn, Teyl stopped me.

“I’m a slave, so right now it’s fine if I stay in Naoki-sama’s room.”

The innkeeper as well, since that was the case, withdrew the inn register book.

For now, we put Teyl's luggage in my room and go to the cafeteria to eat.

Within that, Ayl also returned.

When I asked for two peoples' portions in the cafeteria, Teyl once again stopped me.

"I cannot eat with Naoki-sama. Later I will have the cheapest meal,"

She said.

"No, Teyl is my slave, so from now on I will have you follow my rules."

"A,acknowledged."

"Then sit, eat together with me."

"However, for a slave to eat dinner with the master is..."

"Teyl. Don't make me say it over and over."

"Forgive me."

"If you don't like meat, then I can ask for something else."

"Not at all; please make it the same as Naoki-sama's."

I ordered field boar meat and wine.

"And so, I want to confirm the expectations and rules from hereon out."

"Yes."

"I will be heading to the eastern port city. There I want to get my hands on a map and then travel around the world. I am thinking of seeing all sorts of sights, smacking my lips over all the world's food, and raising my level and skills."

"The world, is it?"

"Yes. I'm not going to be limiting it to Alisfay in particular; I intend to travel all over."

"You intend to go outside the country, is it?"

"That's right. Would you like to come with?"

“I’m a slave, so where Naoki-sama goes I will follow.”

“Even so, for me I was thinking about releasing Teyl when you find a job. By the way, I released 2 slaves in Kubenia.”

“Is that so?”

“That’s right. One of them became a gravekeeper, and the other went to the Capital’s magic school. I had heard that it’s difficult for former slaves to find a job. Even so, I’m thinking that if you find a good job, I will immediately release you from slavery. If it’s that, I was thinking that I can immediately release you and you can return to the mansion.”

“No, that can’t be allowed. There is no good place for me in that mansion, you see.”

“That so; then follow me for a while.”

“Of course. However, is it alright for me to ask one more thing?”

“What is it?”

“I have mostly spent my time caring for the mansion. I can do calculations and cook, but I can’t fight monsters and the like. Is that alright?”

“Aa, if it’s that, there aren’t any problems. I have also pretty much not fought anything, since I’m an F Rank.”

“Is that so? I was certain that...”

“Aa, that’s right. Because of my line of work, my level is high for my low rank.”

“Line of work?”

“It’s pest extermination. The job at the mansion was like that, right?”

“Like that, your level rises?”

“Yeah, basically. About that, I think you can understand the reason. Can’t do anything but get used to it.”

“...Understood.”

Since the food came, we took part in it.

Seems like Teyl likes wine; she asked “Is it alright to have another” many times.

I asked for a bottle of wine and set it in front of Teyl.

“Drink as much as you want. If you run out, let me know.”

In the Guild’s cafeteria, no matter how much you eat, you can pay the bill with 2 or 3 silver coins.

By the time Ayl came into the cafeteria, our meal was already finished.

Like always, I used Cleanup on the mud-covered, wound-covered Ayl, handed over a topological type wound medicine, and explained the situation.

When I told Teyl that Ayl is an adventurer following me, for some reason she said, “Please take care of me” with a glare.

She’s probably just drunk.

When Ayl saw Teyl, she said, “You picked up a slave again; you intend to release her, huh?”

When I told her that tomorrow I wanted to spend the entire day preparing and then I’m going to the east, Ayl said, “Got it” and ordered a field boar dish.

When I returned to my room and made to get into my bed, Teyl also got in.

She seems to be drunk, so I surrendered the bed to Teyl, got out for rabbit fur and goatship cloak from my item bag and made a sleeping spot next to the bed and slept.

Chapter 18

The next morning was terrible.

When Teyl realized what a mess she'd made of her self, she came apologizing while crying.

"I'll do anything, so please don't throw me away. Please punish this foolish me."

So saying, Teyl began removing her clothes.

First of all, stop undressing, and I'll think of the punishment later.

"Rather than that, I need to make the preparations for the journey today. Let's go out into the city. I don't know where the stores are, so show me. Teyl."

So saying, she was about to go out barefoot; properly wear your shoes.

After that, I told her that it was fine for her not to wear her maid outfit anymore, so she took out a black one-piece dress.

I bought as much bread and vegetables as I could buy, then went into the back of an alley and put them in my item bag.

"Um, Naoki-sama, what is that bag...?"

Teyl saw the item bag that wasn't filling up no matter how many things you put in it as mysterious and asked.

"You absolutely can't let anyone else know about this bag. The merchants' work might die out."

"Yes, understood."

"Okay, alright then. Now I need things for daily use; I'd like cloth and good smelling flowers for perfume."

Cloth can be used as material for all sorts of things, and I don't have enough bags so

I'd like some.

For washing my body and brushing my teeth, Cleanup will do.

That aside, my skin gets dry, so I'd like to smear hand lotion-type ointment on my body, but the smell isn't that good.

"Is it a present for a lady? Ayl-sama, was it?"

"No, I want it for materials for alchemy."

"Naoki-sama is an alchemist...!"

"I don't want it spread around, so don't make so much noise."

Teyl sealed her mouth shut and led me to a florist.

At the florists, I bought small, fragrant olive-like orange flowers, and at the dry-goods store I bought 1 roll of sturdy, hemp cloth.

At the general store I bought a toothbrush and towel for wiping grime off and the like.

I quickly use up 2 gold coins.

What's left is 10 Notts, 1 silver coin.

When I confirmed the insides of my wallet, Teyl is staring at something.

When I look forward where her gaze is, there was a dressed up lady leading a brawny slave carrying a large amount of purchases.

"If it's rare items, then I'll take them! Even so, my slave's muscle strength is strong!"

Waving a folding fan, she began touching her sturdy slave's chest lustingly in broad daylight.

Honestly, it feels like a nouveau riche auntie's bad hobby, but the eyes of the people who've gone into town fixate there.

"Does Teyl like that kind of man?"

"No, it's because it was my first time seeing that, using your own slave to promote your shop."

"Aa, I see! That dressed up lady is from the slave trader's"

“No, it’s not from the shop I was at; it’s the lady of a shop that has lost its reputation. For that method to exist, it’s something I didn’t know since I never left the mansion.”

“I guess it’s profitable?”

“No, right now all slave dealers are in financial crisis. There’s no war, and adventurers buying them is rare. From time to time a farmer or seaman will come to buy. As well as going to the brothels. My luck was good.”

Before the slave trader lady left, Teyl was constantly staring.

So without war or a large scale farm, slaves won’t sell, huh?

“Is there nothing like a coliseum?”

“Coliseum? You’re talking about the arena at the Capital, right?”

“So there is one.”

It’s a world with monsters and adventurers, so I thought there would probably be a coliseum at least somewhere.

“It’s said if there’s no coliseum, then the slave trade wouldn’t have come into existence.”

“Is that so?”

“Will Naoki-sama not go out to it? You can become the country’s hero.”

“I don’t have any interest. Also, I don’t have any fighting-type skills.”

“Is that how it is?”

“Now, we’ve bought what we wanted to buy, so let’s return to the inn.”

“Yes!”

We returned to the inn and stuffed Teyl’s luggage in the item bag.

At first Teyl also said she’d carry her own, but when I said that I couldn’t have her carrying heavy luggage that would slow her walking pace, since being delayed would pull me down, she reluctantly came to consent to it.

It became so that we’re only carrying water bags and a tree branch to serve as a

walking stick.

“Um, Naoki-sama, it’s more or less about my punishment...”

“E? Aa, that’s right. What to do... hm~ it’s so sudden I can’t think of it.”

“I will accept whatever you will do to me.”

I thought that if a woman said that I’d be turned on, but in practicality I can’t do anything that will hinder daily living, and the age is somewhat far from mine, so I don’t think about the lower half at all.

“Then, how about having you become an adventurer? I just have 10 Notts left.”

“An adventurer, is it? Are you going to leave me in a monster nest? I’m sorry, but please, please, that alone don’t...”

Teyl cried and clung to me.

“That’s not it. It’s just that it would be convenient for me to know your level and such.”

“Is that how it is.”

We left the room and went to the receptionist to go through the procedures of becoming an adventurer.

Looks like Teyl is level 5.

We didn’t have the money, so we weren’t told her status.

It’s just that her skills, without using any points, are Arithmetic Level 5, Cooking Level 7, and Life Magic 4; it’s excellent.

As expected, only a head maid could be like this.

I was asked about what to do with the skill points, but in the end it’s left to be decided later.

“Since basically we won’t do anything dangerous, after all. Also, if it seems like you’re going to die, absolutely run away. There is no need to defend me. If anything happens to me, go consult Balzack, the gravekeeper in Kubenia.”

“I acknowledge your orders.”

“Then, I will be in your care from now on. A, also, it’s fine if you don’t do night service.”

“Heh? However, that is”

She’s making a ‘why?’ face, but could it be that Teyl thought I was a mature-lady lover?

My head has started to hurt.

“If I can’t stand it anymore I’ll go to a brothel; I’d sneak out by myself, so if you see me pretend you didn’t.”

“A,as you wish.”

“We’re broke now, so tomorrow we’ll set off. Hurry and go to sleep!”

All of a sudden I hear a knock on the door.

When I opened it to look, standing in front of it is Ayl.

“We’re leaving tomorrow, right?” (Ayl)

“A, yeah. I’m thinking about setting off pretty early in the morning, so don’t sleep in.”

“Got it. Don’t leave me behind, please.”

“If you don’t wake up, come following after.”

“If it’s like that, let me sleep in this room tonight.”

“There isn’t enough space.”

“Nope, there should be.”

So saying, Ayl crawled into the bed.

Teyl fidgeted while watching me.

I’m not sure what you’re expecting, but I wish you’d stop.

“Then, that means it’d be fine if I slept in the other room. Teyl, come wake me up tomorrow.”

I go to Ayl’s room next door and crawl into the bed.

Ayl's scent is on it, so I got somewhat turned on.

Chapter 19

The next morning Teyl woke me around the time the sky began to lighten.

When I opened my eyes, Teyl's face was right at my ear, so it was a bit horror-like.

If she does things normally she's a pretty middle-aged lady, but up close it's scary.

"Good morning. Naoki-sama."

"M,morning. Teyl."

I got up slowly, combing out my bed hair with my fingers.

Teyl is full on staring at my lower region.

It's morning after all; so thinking I hurriedly put on my coverall and rush to the toilet.

Bringing along the sleepily yawning Ayl, we depart from the city and head east on the road.

Despite it being early in the morning, many traders' wagons passed us.

It's dangerous so we're walking alongside the road in the weeds.

A trader going in the same direction proposed, "I'll let you ride, so if monsters come out, won't you be their opponents?"

I thought of it like getting a lift from a ship and decided to get on.

A number of monsters came out, but Ayl defeated all of them.

As for me, I just pointed with my finger the direction they're coming from while using Search Skill.

"My master doesn't want to work, isn't it?"

Teyl said of me, who was sleeping on the transport.

"Teyl. That's wrong. Naoki is relinquishing the experience to me,"

Ayl said as she defeated a monster and climbed onto the wagon.

“Is that how it is?”

Teyl asked.

“Nope. It’s just a pain to do,”

I said as I yawned.

“See, he’s just being lazy.”

“It’s fine. If Naoki fights the monsters, then they’d be defeated before I even came over.”

Looks like Ayl’s figured out the confusion bell.

“Is that how it is?”

“I can’t do that right now, you know. The fierhorse is pulling the wagon, after all.”

A fierhorse is a horse-like monster that has a good affinity with humans and they’re widely raised all over.

The confusion bell is a bell that confuses monsters that hear it’s sound, so if I ring it now the fierhorse would also go into confusion.

I’m bored on the back of the wagon.

The scenery is only alternating between forest and grassland, so it pretty much doesn’t change.

From time to time there’s a hill.

Placed on the wagon are bags of wheat in large quantities, as well as defensive gear like the kind adventurers used bundled up.

There isn’t anything to do, so I might as well make writing implements.

Going off to defeat monsters, following Ayl along, I pick up a number of twigs and return.

Since the trader can’t see the monster, after it died it goes into the item bag.

I intend it to be our food later.

Whittling the twigs, I make pen nibs.

I immediately finished it, but as I thought, metal ones seem like they'd be easier to write with.

For now, I make the pen shaft.

I'll make magic water, that's magic stone powder dissolved in water, as the ink, and it will be suitable for when drawing magic circles; with this, I can draw even detailed, tiny magic circles.

With this it looks like I'll be able to draw magic circles on even small things.

The pen nib is weak so I can't avoid have to draw slowly, but I bet if I get a metal pen nib I can draw more quickly.

With the situation like this now, rather than wooden planks and monster leather, I've come to want paper.

There are books, so there should also be paper being made.

"Do you know where paper is being made?"

I tried asking Ayl.

"There's no way I'd know something like that, right?"

"That so?"

"I have heard that paper is imported from a country across the ocean."

The old man trader driving the wagon told me.

As expected there's a need to cross the ocean.

While taking our lunch break, wagons gathered one by one.

Seems like everyone's taking their midday break.

The traders are going to exchange information to an extent, so while bringing their lunches, consultation and small talk and the like broke out.

As for us, since we don't need to participate in that, Teyl cooked and Ayl went into the

forest to dismantle the monsters she defeated.

I also drew the induction heater magic circle on the ground, and after I explained it to Teyl, went to help Ayl dismantle.

When we came back from the forest, field boar meat and forabbit soup was served up.

For the traders it seems like this kind of meal is a luxury, so they were envious.

It's just salted for flavour, but it's all delicious.

"It tastes great."

"Thank you very much."

Teyl is openly pleased.

"If more spices are available, then would the variations increase?"

When I asked,

"Spices, is it? I don't use expensive things much, but I think if I taste it I should be able to manage."

Teyl replied.

I came to want pepper and other spices.

After satisfying the needs for living, things to satisfy desire come out.

Finishing our meal, in the middle of cleaning up, when they saw that I cleaned the pot and tableware with Cleanup and incinerated the bones with a magic circle, there were invitations from traders, saying, "Do you want to ride on our wagon?", but it's a pain so I refused them all.

"It seems that wyverns come out in the mountain pass up ahead, so everyone's being cautious. Can you guys fight a wyvern?"

"Aa, no problem."

Ayl replied.

"I see, I'm relieved."

A wyvern is a flying lizard, so its arms are its wings.

That kind of species, Ayl told me, is a monster that adventurers defeat when they're

going up to B Rank.

“It’s been a while since I’ve done one on one combat with a wyvern.”

Ayl is getting excited.

I drew magic circles on mine and Teyl’s walking stick with the pen; it seems that it’s easy to use.

“Naoki-sama, is there anything I can do?”

Teyl asked.

There isn’t anything to do on the wagon, and you get tired of the outside scenery after seeing it for an hour.

I take out the flower, tallow, and ashes; let’s make soap.

I show her the way to do it once to teach her.

“I will try!”

Teyl is eager.

“If you feel bad, it’s fine to stop midway. It’s important not to overwork yourself.”

“Understood.”

Teyl shifted her attention to the work.

When the sun began to go down, with rusk and honey we had a snack.

When I gave the driving trader a portion, he was surprised and delighted.

When we had eaten our snack, about when several tens of minutes had passed, a monster came out in front of us.

I was being cautious with Search Skill so I knew right away when it was coming, but the monster’s speed was faster than I expected it to be.

Furthermore, that expected monster came from the sky.

“It’s a wyvern!”

Ayl’s voice echoed.

The wagon stopped moving forward.

“Ayl, it’s not just 1!”

A flock of wyverns has come.

In total, 8 of them.

To protect the wagon, I drew a magic circle in the air.

Ayl has already run out ahead.

I also jumped off the back of the wagon, drawing a magic circle on the ground with my walking stick.

The spears of light that sprang from the magic circle flew through the air.

Those spears of light attacked the wyvern flock, tearing their wings.

Ayl downed 3 of the wyverns who fell by slashing their necks.

The wyverns who didn’t have their wings torn fled by flying away.

The traders’ wagon didn’t suffer any damage, nor were there any injured people.

“””””Oooooo-!”””””

The traders who had been watching attentively raised a cheer.

Ayl was applauded.

Ayl drew close to me with a stern face.

“I’d like to dismantle it, but this knife can’t cut wyvern meat. Even though it’s good meat and hide.”

Ayl quickly switches to thinking about dismantling.

“Lend it to me a bit.”

I took the knife from Ayl and drew magic circles on the grip and blade.

I tried raising the durability and sharpness.

“Try putting a little magic power into it while cutting. If you don’t have enough magic

power, there are magic restoratives.”

So saying I passed the knife back to Ayl.

Ayl drew close to the wyvern corpses, placed her knife along the reptiles’ scales, and even though there was a loud snap, the knife cut.

“With this I’ll manage!”

“Dismantling it is all well and good, but taking it with us will be difficult. Since I can’t use the item bag here.”

I said as I pointed at the traders.

“It’s fine. Everyone will definitely cooperate for the sake of the wyvern meat.”

So saying, Ayl headed over to the traders.

“Today we’ve got wyvern meat on the menu for dinner! Sorry, but make space on the wagons!”

When she yelled that,

“Obviously!”

“Awesome- today’s going to be a feast!”

“Our wagon only has salt and defense gear, so we can make as much space as you need!”

The traders said one after another.

Ayl grinned and began dismantling the wyverns in the middle of the road.

As for the blood and viscera flowing out of the wyverns, I evaporated them with magic circles.

The hide is hard, so since it seems to be good material to make weapons and armor from, the traders began to bid for the peeled off hide on the side.

Ayl and I can’t use the item bag anyway so we can’t take it with us, so we sold it to the traders for as much as they can manage.

The meat was wrapped in cloth, and when I drew a preservation magic circle on it, the traders said, “Are you a genius?!”

Chapter 20

The sun was setting; around the time when it was dusk above the western mountains, the wagons, stuffed with loads of wyvern meat in the back, began to move down the road.

It seems like we'll reach a village in another hour.

When we reached the village, it was immediately decided that the wyvern meat would be used to treat everyone, and it became a festival.

The villagers, wearing clothes like that of people from the orient, welcomed us, and it ended up with us staying overnight at the village head's house.

Cloudy white sake was sent around, and the wyvern meat was roasted in the village square.

The seasoning was just salt and pepper the merchants brought, but the wyvern meat was supremely delicious.

The protein-filled white meat was soft, and there wasn't any gamey scent.

With all the villagers gathered in the square, the village girls danced for us.

The villagers, merchants, and adventurers who were staying in the village drank liquor and sang songs there.

When I had finished eating wyvern meat, pouring liquor with Teyl and drinking, Ayl drew closer.

"Did I do bad? I decided to share the wyvern meat all on my own."

"No, when you catch large prey, I imagine it's better to have a banquet with everyone. And we raked it in, selling the hide."

"I see, that's a relief. At that time, without Naoki covering the rear, it might have gotten a little bad."

"Of course, it was a flock, after all. I can at least shoot them down."

“That was the first time I saw Naoki fight, you know.”

“Aa, that was also the first time I felt like fighting monsters.”

I said that innocently enough, but Ayl and Teyl are surprised.

“For crying out loud, exactly how did you raise your level?”

“Like I said, extermination work.”

“Do you shoot magic like you used in today’s fight with the wyverns?”

“No, today’s was a magic circle I made for the first time.”

The actual fact of the matter is, when a Skill hits max, the image factor becomes big.

When I think about what I imagined as a magic circle, the magic circle comes to me automatically.

All I have to do is draw those and it’ll work, so if any people researching magic circles who can’t use any more Skill Points were here, I think they’d beat me up.

“You’re using a new magic circle for the first time and defeating wyverns, so you’re already outside the norm.”

Ayl downed her liquor.

“It won’t do to think of Naoki-sama using common sense. Rather than thinking about it, getting used to it would be quicker. It’s the first that I’ve truly understood the meaning of ‘get used to it’.”

Teyl said as she poured sake into Ayl’s cup.

“Get used to it, huh? If I can’t get used to it, I won’t become strong.”

Ayl put the cup to her mouth.

“Greetings, and thank you for tonight.”

An elderly man growing a white beard talked to us.

“I am the old man who is acting as this village’s head.”

“Aa, greetings. Us as well, we thank you for opening up to us to the extent of having a feast.”

“No, no. This year, we’ve suffered a lot of damage from wyverns. This is also a party honoring those who have killed them.”

“Is it rare for wyverns to show up around here?”

I asked the village head.

“Indeed. It’s said that long ago, the mountain’s red dragon protected the village from wyverns so that they never came to this village, but currently the red dragon doesn’t come out from the mountain.”

“Those of the dragon species are rare, after all. Were there hunters who’ve made names for themselves who hunted it?”

Ayl asked the village head.

“Who knows, it’s just, this place is a spot on the map on the way for many journeys, so there are many of whom I can’t tell whether they’re a strong adventurer or a weak adventurer. If a strong adventurer came unnoticed, it might be that he defeated the red dragon.”

“If a red dragon was here, I would also go try to defeat it. If you can defeat it, you can become an A Rank, you know?”

Ayl told me.

I don’t have any interest in ranks, but if the red dragon disappeared and the wyverns have increased, then I suppose it would good to exterminate them.

In actuality, for prey to increase explosively when a predator disappears happens a lot.

Wyverns are also most likely predators, so if we don’t hunt them with a balance in mind, it’s possible that another weak monster will increase.

We can’t do anything but look at the balance across several years.

It’s different from the vespahornets and bagroaches; if the wyverns are increasing naturally then it would be fine to leave it as it is, but humans are becoming victims, so it seems I can’t just pretend not to see it happening.

“You’re making a difficult face. Naoki-sama.”

Teyl peered into my face.

“Aa. Un, a bit. Village Head-san, how many years are there between the times the wyverns increase around here? And at the previous time they increased, was there anyone who hunted them or the like?”

“Indeed. It’s said that the wyverns increase around once every 30 years. They say that those wyverns are eaten by the mountain’s red dragon. It’s just, last year it just happened to reach that one time in 30 years, but the red dragon didn’t come out, and the wyverns have been increasing since.”

“I see. Then, it will be tomorrow, but I’ll go exterminate the wyverns.”

The village head opened his eyes wide, seemingly startled.

“Can you do such a thing?”

“Yeah, probably. Are the wyverns’ rookery in the mountains?”

“That’s right.”

“O, finally, I will get to see Naoki’s extermination!”

Ayl was excited and looked over here.

“Please, definitely do. When the wyverns come out, peoples’ comings and goings are delayed, and it will become a situation where people will no longer come to our village.”

“What will you do about the reward?”

Teyl came in and asked about an important point.

“There are trees in our village called zaza trees, and very rarely do the flowers bloom, but once every 30 years the flowers bloom and the following year they bear fruit. Coincidentally, this year we were able to harvest a lot of fruit, so won’t zaza fruit work as a reward? They go for a high price in the city.”

“If that’s the case, I don’t mind.”

Perhaps it’s a natural cycle where the weak monsters increase while eating the zaza fruit, and so the wyverns increase.

“Then, I will be going to prepare the beds for when you become tired.”

So the village head said and went to a big house on the outskirts of the village.

After that we drank for a little while, then went to the village head's house and slept in the prepared beds.

The next morning I took Teyl and Ayl along to climb the mountain.

After leaving the village, we reached the base of the mountain after an hour or so of walking.

They say that from here you can go to the port city by way of a detour.

As we climb the trees proportionally get shorter.

From time to time you can see a wyvern or a bat-type monster called a shobusri flying by.

Both of them are flying in the direction of the mountain.

They're dwellings are probably close.

Taking a break, we ate sandwiches, and then Ayl dismantled the monster she wasn't able to dismantle the previous day.

The meat and leather went into the Item Bag, and the left over bones were pulverized into powder.

The bones were gathered and put into a bag, then beaten into powder.

"What are you making?"

Ayl came to ask.

"It's calcium. It will become nutrients."

"What. Isn't this your secret?"

"You're wrong, you know. This is the first time I'm doing it. I was thinking I can swallow some when I'm feeling irritable."

"H~mm."

Ayl's interest waned.

After the break I opened Search Skill full throttle, searching for the wyverns' dwelling.

Around halfway up the mountain, where it began to be rocks with no trees, there was an entrance to a cave.

Chapter 21

I see that the cave looks to be a dungeon divided into levels, so when you go to the lower level there are more monsters.

“I wonder how they dug out this cave?”

“Those kinds of monsters exist.”

Ayl responded to my question.

For example, there’s a giant ant monster called shimant that burrows through the ground with a sturdy jaw that can make dungeons.

For countermeasures against the ants (shimants), I sprinkle calcium at the entrance.

It would be troublesome if they went out.

Entering the cave, Teyl lit a lamp for light.

The brightness of the lamp is greater than normal, so you can see pretty far.

I use the Search Skill to see, so it doesn’t matter to me much, but for the other two, I’d imagine the pitch-blackness makes them uneasy.

Handing over damp cotton in place of earplugs to the other two, I ring the Confuse Bell.

Ring the bell within the den makes it echo.

Thereabouts, the monsters began to fight each other; the wyverns and shubusri¹ that leapt up to fly crash into the walls and floor and fall.

When I use the Search Skill to look, it seems that the bell’s sound can be heard all the way to the lower level.

I have Teyl enter a defensive magic circle drawn on the ground, and together with Ayl I head to the next level.

I let Ayl be the opponent for the monsters that came over here.

“With them so dizzy, it can’t be helped that it’s like they aren’t putting any strength into their attacks, na.”

Ayl said as she slashed and sent a wyvern’s head flying.

I head to the lowest level along the shortest way.

To avoid destroying the ecosystem, I don’t shoot all the monsters we meet.

When we were about to go downstairs, I wonder if it’s a volcano; it’s getting hot.

When I look with Search Skill, on the last level there is a single creature that, even despite hearing the Confusion Bell, didn’t move.

If there’s a red dragon, then it’s probably that one that’s not moving.

However, the red dragon is already in an abnormal condition.

When I go to look, as I expected, a red-scaled dragon is sleeping there.

I stretched out a barrier, and since the red dragon seems like it won’t move, I take out some awakening powder.

It’s just nasal breathing, but it could blow away a child, so I time it to match its inhale and bring the powder close to its nose.

The red dragon, who inhaled quite vigorously, opened its eyes, the size of an adults torso, and opened its mouth widely to roar.

However, the barrier didn’t let any of the sound through.

I can’t do anything but wait for the red dragon to realize its situation.

As for Ayl, I’ve already conveyed to her that I have no intention of defeating the red dragon.

She was quite surprised, but came to reluctantly agree.

If we attacked it in its sleep, I suppose we could somehow defeat it.

However, it's possible that the surrounding ecosystem's pyramid will collapse.

And so, I will help wake the red dragon that has overslept, is what I explained.

It seems the dragon species have long lives, so I can wager that it can communicate with people.

After a while, the red dragon stood up silently, and then the red dragon faced us and moved its mouth.

When I erased a part of the barrier, with a, for some reason, groaning voice, it was speaking with some kind of language.

When I looked at the Skill Tree, I see that the Language ability has derived the Dragonkin Language Skill.

When I put a Skill Point in it, I understood what the red dragon was saying.

"You, why have you awakened me?"

"Even though the wyverns are propagating, the red dragon hasn't awakened, so I woke you. I had heard that up until now you've woken and come once every 30 years."

Crossing my arms, I talk to the red dragon.

Ayl is watching me doubtfully.

The condition for the Skill to be derived might be for one of the dragon species to talk to you.

I am aware I am also raising a groaning voice, but it's that kind of language so it can't be helped.

"Is that so. I chose this dwelling because every 30 years I can prey upon wyverns. Has 30 years already passed?"

"Yeah, it's passed."

"Even so, it's not hot, you know. Has the mountain's lava flow changed?"

"I don't know about that, but after this I'll look into it. Before that, do you need wyvern meat?"

I took wyvern meat from the Item Bag and tossed them on the ground near its mouth.

“Umu, it smells good.”

The red dragon sniffed the scent of the wyvern meat and began to skillfully eat it.

“Will you go hunt wyverns for a bit?”

Aiming for when it finished eating, I asked.

“Naturally. If this magic circle is erased, that is.”

I drew a defensive magic circle around myself and Ayl, then erased the barrier around the red dragon.

“Be assured. There’s tastier meat than you flying around. I won’t attack.”

When the red dragon said so, it unfurled its wings and flew off into the cave.

In the distance, I can hear the death wails of the wyverns.

“Did it go well?”

Ayl, watching the flying red dragon, asked timidly.

“Probably. Anyway, should I make an alarm clock that rings once every 30 years?”

I squatted on the ground and searched through the Item Bag.

I don’t have anything so complicated as a clock, so I’ll make do with an hourglass.

Magic stone powder is probably fine for the insides.

I drew an incomplete explosive magic circle on the ground with magic stone powder, and where it’s incomplete I install the hourglass.

To be safe, I ask Ayl the length of a year and the length of a day.

This world has 360 days in a year and 25 hours in a day? That’s the first I heard of it.

Is this fine, me?

By the way, there’s no leap year.

By calculating, I understand there are 270,000 hours.

I put a hole in the bottle the magic stone powder is in, but I realized that, even if I

regulate it so only one grain comes through every hour, I still come up with an error.

I think the wind might be interfering.

In the first place, it's going to be a 30 year hourglass, so a bigger one might be better.

I don't have enough materials.

"I've decided! I'm giving up!"

"Are you tired of it?"

Ayl was watching me work without saying anything, so she was surprised at my words.

"Un, rather than doing this, it's better to come back here to meet it after 30 years. Or like, as long as the red dragon wakes up it'll be fine, so let's try negotiating."

"Can you do that?"

"Yeah, that's the best idea."

Whether it knew of this or not, the red dragon happened to conveniently come back.

Is it satisfied; its mouth is smeared all over with blood, and it came flying.

The red dragon landed in front of me.

"Are you devising something to wake me?"

When it saw the magic circle drawn on the ground, it asked.

"No, I thought about making an alarm clock, but I stopped. I realized it would be easier to come wake you up again after 30 years."

"I see, that's a pity."

"Red dragon. You don't have to be sleeping all the time, so wouldn't going out on a journey or something while your awake be fine?"

"N~ that's true, killing time by going on a journey might be good. But you know. If I go out, it'll become a bit of a commotion. It's troublesome."

"Are you a NEET?! What kind of monster would scare a dragon?!"

I unintentionally tsukkomi-ed.

"E... even so, you know."

“No, it’s fine to do as you wish. Aren’t you getting tired of eating wyverns all the time? Is it fine that they only come here once every 30 years?”

“If you’re asking whether I’m tired of them, I am. Once every 30 years is fine, though. N~ but you know. Dragons have strong territorial instincts, so I’m wondering if I won’t be a bother to other dragons.”

Bit by bit, my irritation grows.

Exactly how much of a monster’s instinct is based on tact?

“Then, if you bring wyvern meat as a gift, then won’t it be easy to get along?”

“A, a gift, huh? But, if I meet a dragon that hates wyvern meat, then what should I do?”

“Hell if I know! Go hunt a fish monster in the area or something!”

“A fish monster, I’m a red dragon you know. I’m not good with water.”

“Then, talking to an adventurer and making a deal with him to catch you one would be fine?”

“Do you think I would be able to talk to an adventurer?”

“I’m an adventurer!”

“I... I see. W,wait a minute.”

So saying, the red dragon began breaking an inner wall of the cave.

Dust floats in the air, and from the ceiling sand falls.

The red dragon dug out a giant magic stone and, holding the magic stone, came close to me.

“Take this with you. If I have anything I want to ask you, I’ll use it as a landmark to meet up with you.”

“Wha! What are deciding by yourself! Wait a minute!”

I hurriedly take out a suitable bag from the Item Bag, and with magic thread and needle I embroidered a magic circle.

When I finished the magic circle, I tied a sturdy rope around the red dragon’s neck and hung the bag from it.

“This is called a Communication Bag; even if you’re far away, you can hear me. By feeding in a little magic power, even if you’re here, we can communicate.”

“This is a convenient thing you’ve made.”

“With this, there’s no need for this gigantic magic stone, right?”

So saying, I went to return the magic stone to the red dragon, but

“No, take that with you. It will convey the matter about you to other dragons.”

And it refused.

“Won’t it become a troublesome thing?”

“It will be fine. No one would inflict harm on one who carries a symbol of the dragons’ favor.”

“No, that’s not what I’m talking about, though...”

Ayl, seeing the state of the matter, whispered, “If he’s giving it, then take it.”

Seems like even if you can’t understand dragonkin language you can still understand the situation.

I reluctantly take it and put it in the Item Bag.

I’ve decided; if any requests come from dragons, I’m overcharging them.

“It’s about time for us to go. Please hunt the wyverns without overeating.”

“Understood. I’ve received your help. I’ll see you off to the entrance of the cave.”

So saying, the red dragon had me and Ayl climb on its back and took off.

While the red dragon snatched several wyverns and ate them, gradually we went up the cave.

We landed where Teyl was at the entrance of the cave, stewing dinner.

Teyl, who saw the red dragon, was frightened, but when I waved a hand from its back the overwhelming power dropped.

Before the red dragon parted ways with us, I made it a bag for it to carry gifts, and then it returned to the depths of the cave.

Chapter 22

“For crying out loud, I didn’t understand anything.”

Ayl said while unfurling the tent outside the cave.

She’s probably talking about how she followed along to observe, but she couldn’t determine the secret of my strength.

That’s as it should be.

All I did was ring a bell and wake a red dragon, after all.

Even so, when you look at the bottom of my adventurer’s card, my level has risen to 77.

Seems like the experience from wyverns is a lot.

“Truly strong people will hide their strength. I suppose Naoki-sama is a truly strong person.

Teyl said while stirring the pot.

“I’m not strong, you know.”

I said as I prepared the beds.

“No, you should go see your status at the guild once in a while.”

Ayl came my way.

“I don’t have any interest, na.”

I looked up at Ayl, crossing her arms, and said.

“Nope; when we go to the port city, we’re stopping by the Guild.”

“Okay, okay. For now, I’m hungry so let’s eat.”

Even while complaining, Ayl ate the bread and soup.

As for me, I thought about the flow of the lava the red dragon talked about.

Lava may be spouting up somewhere.

Leaving the dish cleanup to Teyl, I walked around the cave's surroundings.

But, there wasn't any evidence of lava erupting anywhere within the Search Skill radius.

Come to think of it, I didn't see any of those cave digging ants, the shimants.

When I returned to the camp and asked Ayl, she said that when shimants finish a dungeon, the queen ant gives birth to shimants with wings and they fly off to the next place.

The shimants left behind become prey for the other monsters, so you won't see them, was the explanation that came.

"So they're that kind of creature."

When I admired them for that,

"Naoki, you don't really know much about monsters do you?"

I was asked.

"Aa, I pretty much never left the town, after all."

"I see. It would be nice if we met a monster researcher as we continue on our journey."

"Monster researcher, huh? There are people like that?"

"Aa, when I crossed the ocean to investigate and island evil men's haunts, I heard about it. If I'm right, they should exist in the port city ahead."

"I see. It would be nice if we met one."

After that, Teyl and Ayl began to talk romance with no reserve, so I went to my bed and slept.

The next day, for some reason Teyl and Ayl are lying next to me, stinking of liquor.

A suitably large amount of liquor had disappeared from the Item bag, so it seems that

the two drank quite heavily.

The two show no signs of waking.

It's better to leave them be like this for a while.

I put away my bedding and tried climbing the mountain.

I can reach the summit from the cave with 30 minutes of walking.

Facing the forest, I can see the ocean.

I can also properly see the campsite.

I decide to contact Balzack and Sera for the first time in a while.

I put just a little magic power into the Communication Bag.

"It's been a while. Doing well?"

["Oo-! Naoki-sama, it's been a while. How are you? And how's the journey?"]

From the Communication Bag, Balzack's voice responded.

There was absolutely no reaction from Sera.

"Everything's fine here, you know. I wonder if Sera is sleeping?"

["Yes, it seems the magic school is quite severe, so the mornings will be quite late."]

"I see. How are you, Balzack?"

["Right, I am doing well with no problems. I've been asked about Naoki-sama."]

"I see. Right now I'm trying journeying with the adventurer Ayl and slave Teyl."

["Hou. Both of them, are they ladies?"]

"That's right."

["As always, your luck with the ladies is strong. Naoki-sama."]

“Even if my luck with women is strong, there isn’t any amorous relations, so it doesn’t mean much.”

[“The other side might not think that way.”]

“Here they doesn’t have any of those intentions towards me. Ma, I’ll patiently look.”

[“I’ll look forward to it.”]

[*CRAAAAASH!!!!* “Naoki-sama! Naoki-samaaaaa!!!”]

After the sound of something falling over, I hear Sera’s screaming voice.

“Sera, you’re too loud.”

[“My apologies! There’s nothing strange going on?”]

“Aa, none. Are you doing well, Sera?”

[“I’m not. I want to meet Naoki-sama sooner. Are you not coming to the capital?”]

“Aa, in a little while I’ll be going to the port city.”

[“It seems that he’s journeying together with an adventurer and slave lady.”]

Balzack said.

[“Wha!? What are you doing!?! Naoki-sama! Immediately get away from them! Because Naoki-sama seems the type that’s easily fooled by women!”]

“Balzack, don’t say unnecessary things.”

[“My apologies.”]

Just in time, Teyl got up from her bedding and was looking for me.

“Right then, I gotta go.”

[“Wait just a minute! I haven’t talked to you that much yet!”]

Sera protested.

“I’ll write a letter, so wait patiently.”

[“It’s a promise! Absolutely, please!”]

“Then, until the next time I call you two.”

["Yes"] ["Yes"]

I closed the Communication Bag.

"O-i!"

I waved my hand and showed Teyl the scenic spot.

Chapter 23

We reached the port town two days later. We reported to the village that the red dragon had revived and then immediately continued down the road that circumvents the mountain.

Ayl becomes the monsters' opponents, so I pretty much just walk.

We stayed over one night in the forest, and around noon the next day we could see the sea's horizon in the direction of the cliff.

Going down the gently sloping path, we proceed down the road while looking at the sea on the left-hand side.

The coming and going of wagons and people is also becoming more intense.

As the sun just began to sink, we finally reached the port town.

The port town, Marina Port, is larger than Kubenia, and the population is also larger.

At the harbor there is a large number of ships docked.

Anyway, for now we'll arrange to stay at the Adventurer Guild's inn.

The Guild is the same everywhere, so there's an inn and eatery adjacent to it.

I sold all the wyvern's monster material, changed it to money, and then when I tried to book a room at the inn, I was told there was no vacancy.

It seems there's a sports festival soon, so the adventurers increased.

It can't be helped, so we went to find an inn elsewhere.

"Sports festival, huh? Naoki, you're not going to enter?"

Ayl asked.

“No way I’ll enter, right? I’m not a swordsman after all.”

“But I feel like you can win anyway, you know?”

“I have no interest. Ayl, what if you try entering?”

I said as I searched for inn-like buildings.

“If you make it to the top, it looks like the prize is riding a ship. Naoki probably also wants to ride a ship, right?”

“Un, maa, if I can.”

Teyl, who went ahead, stopped; she found a building.

“Naoki-sama, how about this place?”

She was in front of a high-class looking, brick inn.

The wyvern hide was bought at a high price, so it might be fine to stay here today.

“Ask if there are any rooms.”

I asked Teyl, handing over the coinpurse.

“Understood.”

Teyl entered the inn.

Teyl booked a single 3-person room and returned.

Ayle muttered, “This will be the first time I’m staying in such an expensive inn,” in a small voice.

Anyway, I’m tired so I’d have been glad anywhere I could relax in, but having a luxury every now and then isn’t too bad.

The innkeeper guided us to our room.

Inside there’s even a bathroom, and we were told if we paid for it, hot water would be sent up.

We’d manage the hot water with Magic Circles somehow, so I refused.

When I handed over 1 silver coin as tip, the innkeeper was surprised and looked at

me, said, "If there's anything you need, anything at all, please let me know," and left.

"One silver coin is too much."

Teyl told me.

I don't have much money sense, so it would be better to leave this sort of thing to Teyl as well.

Immediately, I set out the luggage, draw a Magic Circle on the large bucket bathtub in the bathroom, and accumulate hot water.

Using soap and perfume, the ladies entered the bath first.

Ayl exited first.

"Fuu- I'm refreshed. Naoki should go too. Teyl is skilled, you know."

Looks like Teyl washed her.

I guess it's normal for a slave to wash your back.

"O-i, Teyl-. I'll enter alone, so wash your own body and come out."

"...Understood."

Teyl, freshly washed, exited, and I swapped places with her and entered.

The hot water has become considerably dirty, so I changed it for fresh hot water.

"Ui~..."

Soaking in the bathtub, the exhaustion from the journey leaves me.

Slowly my body unwinds, and I wash my entire body with soap and apply perfume.

It's a citrus perfume, so even though it's very sweet, it's not stifling.

I use a wind magic circle for my hair, put on new clothes, and return to the room.

A laidback atmosphere drifted about.

Teyl made black tea, and I drank it at the table.

Outside the window is part of Marina Port's townscape, and when you face it you can see the sea.

"Ah, a map, I forgot to buy one. Tomorrow I'll buy one at the Guild. After that, take me to where the Monster Scholar is."

I requested of Ayl.

"Got it. If you guys meet up, I was thinking I'd go over to the sports festival. I think my level's gone up decently after defeating the wyverns, so I want to test my arm."

"I see."

"If I win and get to ride the boat, I'll try asking if Naoki-sama can also ride."

"N-, maa, if it's impossible it's okay too, though..."

Gu-!

Teyl's stomach sounded.

Her face completely red, Teyl suppressed her stomach.

"Then, let's go eat. We're at a port town, so there's probably some really delicious stuff!"

We left the inn and went out to town once again.

Even though it's night at the city of Marina Port, it's still full of energy.

All the restaurants are overflowing with people.

Brawls also arise here and there, and there are also people getting thrown through the air.

When Ayl dealt out punishment to the brawling adventurers with the back of her sword, cheers erupted and the shopkeeper gave his thanks.

That shopkeeper treated us to a fish dish, and we returned to the inn in a somewhat tipsy manner.

"It was delicious, naa."

"Was it really alright to get it for free?"

I spoke my impressions, and Teyl worriedly spoke to Ayl.

“Aa, it was thanks for stopping the brawl. Accepting is also a form of manners.”

Ayle said, and clambered into her own bed.

Just like that, in a matter of a few minutes, Ayl was snoring.

At such speed, Teyl and I looked at each other and laughed.

“Teyl, it’s fine for you to sleep first. I have a little work to do before bed.”

“Is that truly alright?”

“Aa, I was thinking about making Ayl a protection charm, so it won’t take long.”

“Then, I will sleep first. Good night.”

Teyl said, and went to her bed.

Staying in the same room as her master, Teyl was resistant to sleeping in the same style bed, but I showed I don’t care so recently she’s been using the bed at her own initiative¹.

I think it would be good if her awareness as a slave gradually goes away.

I began making a misanga from magic thread (thread dipped in magic stone powder dissolved in water).

On the misanga wrapped in powerful magic power, I drew on a restoration magic circle.

With this, if you take damage enough to cause death, you can withstand it just once and be completely restored.

Just in case, I also made Teyl and myself ones.

Stretching, I look out the window and the round moon is suspended high up in the sky.

Listening to the sounds of the ocean, I crawl into bed, close my eyes, and quickly fall asleep.

I awoke at the time Ayl was leaving the room.

“Morning. Leaving already?”

Rubbing my eyes, I call out to her while yawning.

“Aa, the festival’s reception is open early. I’m off already.”

“A, hang on a sec.”

I got out of bed and tied the misanga I made last night around Ayl’s wrist.

“With this, even if you die, it’ll be fine.”

“Don’t go killing me off, na.”

Ayl glared at me.

“It’s a protection charm.”

“Thanks for the trouble. I told Teyl where the Monster Scholar’s house is. See ya.”

“Aa, safe travels.”

Ayl left the room, seeming to be in high spirits.

“Would you like some black tea?”

Teyl asked me with a teapot in one hand.

“Yeah, I’ll have some.”

Hearing where the Monster Scholar’s house is from Teyl, Teyl doesn’t seem confident about it so we’ll drop by the Guild first and then go.

Chapter 24

When we asked at the Guild, it seems there are several people called Monster Scholars.

When we gave a rough description, they immediately told us the place.

Normally Monster Scholars will become members of the crew on a ship to go to other wild land in order to research monsters, but the Monster Scholar Ayl told us about has recently been shut up in her house so that you won't see her.

The Guild receptionist old man pulled out a map and showed us where her house is.

When I expand my Search Skill with all my might, it's within range.

However, the person within is weakened, or she's in an abnormal condition.

"Let's hurry!"

"Yes."

Leaving the Guild, I explained the situation to Teyl and we headed towards the Monster Scholar's house.

"Then, he's in a dangerous situation, is it?"

"That's right. It's not certain that the disease's spread is limited only to within the house. I don't think there's danger of instant death, but put this misanga on."

I hand over the misanga I made last night.

Teyl and I wrap the misanga around our wrists and reach the Monster Scholar's house.

The house is a one-story stone bungalow, and I can tell it's one of considerable age.

There's a withered field in the garden, and a toilet within run-down walls nearby.

Even if I knock on the door there's no answer.

From the Search Skill, I can tell she's collapsed on the ground.

I used a magic circle to open the door's lock.

Entering, the air within is stuffy and stagnate.

The shutters of the windows were closed, and the lamp lights extinguished.

It's pitch black, but because I have the Search Skill I can see.

There's no poison in the air.

I told Teyl to open the window and went to the side of the house's owner.

The Monster Scholar is a young woman, and she's wearing a sooty robe.

Her grey hair is disheveled, but she has handsome features and glossy white skin that's almost transparent.

Her height is about the same as mine, or taller than me, but her body is thin as paper; she's lost weight.

I grasp the Monster Scholar's thin arm and check her pulse.

It's quite weak, but she's alive.

I take out Restoration Medicine from the Item Bag, slightly shook the Monster Scholar's body, and her mouth opened, so I poured it in.

"I don't know who you are, but you saved me. U-, wait a minute..."

Just when the Monster Scholar had shakily stood, she ran to the toilet in the garden.

When I thought that her abnormal status might be food poisoning, Teyl came from the kitchen, bring moldy bread.

"It seems she ate this."

"It's proven that she upset her stomach."

I performed Clean Up on the kitchen, and Teyl made soup that would be easy on the stomach.

The pot in the kitchen has some sort of suspicious thing in it, so I placed it aside, put a board on top of the stove, and drew the heater magic circle.

From the Item Bag I took out ingredients and a pot, handing it to Teyl, and I went

around the rooms using Clean Up.

As for the study-like room with sheaves of paper scattered about, I left it without saying a word.

I detect a monsters that can hardly move in the room where lots of vegetation is being grown.

As it might be some research, I didn't use Clean Up here as well.

The water in the pots are murky so I changed them and went around watering the withered vegetation just a little bit.

I don't know how much water they need, and plants exist that don't need much water and will rot when over-watered, so I didn't do much.

I use Clean Up in the bedroom, placed a Va^osen, and erected a barrier around the entirety of the room.

The strong Va^osen filled the entire room with white smoke.

With this, I believe the ticks and mites are done for.

When I confirmed that the smoke had subsided, once again I used Clean Up.

I'll wash the sheets, so I fill a bucket in the vicinity with water and put them in.

For the detergent, I use the soap made previously.

There's the pleasant scent of citrus.

Making a small whirlwind within the bucket by drawing a magic circle, I'm able to make a make-shift washing machine.

Taking that bucket outside, I fix the collapsed clothesline and put the sheets on it to dry.

Teyl, who finished making the soup, came outside in order to give me a hand.

When the two of us had hung up the sheets, the Monster Scholar unsteadily came out from the toilet.

"M,my bad."

The Monster Scholar lowered her head at Teyl and me.

“For now it would be better to eat properly and rest a little.”

I lent my shoulder to the Monster Scholar and we entered the house.

Teyl prepared the soup and had the Monster Scholar eat.

Was the Monster Scholar famished; although unsteadily, she ate well.

Next we brought out grilled wyvern meat, and she ate it deliciously.

“It’s been a while since I’ve eaten human food. Thanks. I am the Monster Scholar, Velsa.”

“I’m Naoki. I’m an adventurer that exterminates pests.”

“I’m Teyl, Naoki-sama’s slave.”

Velsa introduced herself, so we also introduced ourselves.

“What do you mean by exterminating pests?”

“I exterminate bugs and rats and monsters like those within houses.”

Hearing my explanation, Velsa made a mystified face.

“With that you can make enough to have a slave?”

“Yeah, maa, it’s a profit that’s around that much. Aside from that, I wanted to know about monsters.”

“You came all the way to my house, so I assumed so. So? Which monster did you want to hear about?”

Teyl cut in with after-meal black tea.

Velsa asked such while drinking that black tea.

“I want you to teach me anything, as long as it’s about monsters. What kind of monsters are on the other side of the ocean, or rare monsters, the ecology of common monsters, where to go to get my hands on monsters, everything. Without knowing anything, I became an adventurer before I knew it.”

At my explanation, Velsa listened while nodding, un, un.

“I see, you’re a rare kind of guy. Naoki. For adventurers, just thinking about whether

defeating it with swords or magic is better is the norm, but, hm. I see.”

Velsa, her complexion looking better, probably because she ate, rubbed her chin while going to her study.

Rummaging through her study, Velsa returned with a single book in hand.

“This is a book the Monster Scholar who is my master (shishou) wrote about the ecology of small monsters that live close around us. Anyway, read this. I have a number of other monster books, but this book is the best one without falsehoods.”

I received the book with “Lissa’s Monster Memos”, and flipped through the pages inside.

Within there was masmaskarl and bugroaches and the like, monsters that you often see around this area, with illustrations and explanations.

The habitats and weaknesses, and other things like what they prefer, are all written down; it’s a valuable work.

“This is a good book.”

I honestly expressed my admiration.

“Isn’t it? That book, I’ll lend it to you. Pretty much all of the Monster Scholars in this city are colleagues that have been influenced by this book. There are also a lot of people who board ships to search for new species. There are also rich people who give money rewards for new species, so it becomes a competition. I lost that competition and shut myself in to think of new theories, but... my money ran out. To a point where I was troubled on how I could eat...”

While speaking to us, Velsa gradually lost her energy.

“If I provide food and money, will you teach me more about monsters?”

“E!?”

At my words, Velsa lifted her head up in surprise.

“If I provide food and money, you can continue your research, right?”

“That’s right, but... you’re a curious fellow aren’t you, Naoki. Even if you sponsor my research, there’s no profit in it.”

“That’s Velsa’s own research affairs. Besides, my goal isn’t making money, it’s learning

about monsters.”

So saying, I took out all the money I had on me and put it on the table.

“Anyway, would this be sufficient for now?”

There are 50 gold coin, 5,000 Notts.

The wyvern hide was sold for quite the price, so the money I had was pretty good.

“Y, you’ll give this much to me?”

“Aa. And after that, we also have wyvern meat and vegetables, so we’ll leave it. Is it fine to come tomorrow too?”

“Of course.”

“Before that, I’ll read the book. Before the sheets dry, it should be fine to use for rabbit furs.”

I handed Velsa the rabbit furs I took out of my Item Bag.

“For everything, thanks.”

“It’s good. Velsa’s research can move forward. Just, don’t push yourself too hard.”

“I understand.”

Teyl and I, as Velsa gave her thanks, left the house.

Chapter 25

“Is that alright? Handing over that much money.”

Teyl asked as we returned to the Guild.

“It will be fine. She doesn’t seem like a bad person.”

“So that’s Naoki-sama’s type.”

Teyl looks up at the sky as if in frustration.

Teyl was sold for 20 gold coins, so she probably doesn’t like that I just handed over 50 gold coins to Velsa today.

“For me, I won’t hand over money to anyone that isn’t worth it, you know? Currently, I wouldn’t regret handing over 100 gold coins for Teyl.”

When I said so, Teyl looked away.

When I had thought that her mood had worsened, her footsteps have gotten light so it might be that she unexpectedly was happy about it.

At the Guild I look over the requests on the board.

I had handed Velsa all the money I had, so I’ll have to earn today’s room and board.

The requests for F Rank adventurers don’t reward very well, so Teyl had said, “Please hurry and raise your rank.”

There just so happened to be work for cleaning the shipyard and exterminating masmaskarl (rat monsters), so it was decided.

When I went to the shipyard, I can hear the pleasant sounds hammers.

The shipyard is an enormous, warehouse-like brick building, located in a spot facing the sea.

The door was left open just a little bit, and workers in the middle of their break were

outside smoking cigarettes and shooting the breeze.

“I’m from the Adventurers Guild, and I’ve come for the cleaning and extermination.”

“Oo, go in. Oi! An adventurer came!! Someone call the Head over!”

One of the workers called into the shipyard.

The workers clad in brown work clothes saw me in my coveralls and admired it with,
“Those are nice clothes.”

A large sailboat was being made within the shipyard.

A wooden scaffolding was assembled around the sailboat, and a crane was hung from the ceiling.

On the wall are windows near the ceiling, and sunlight streamed into the entire shipyard.

When Teyl and I waited at the entrance, a sunburnt, bearded, middle-aged man came over.

“I’m the Head, Bollock.”

“Adventurer Naoki. This here is my assistant Teyl.”

I grasped and shook Bollock’s outstretched hand and introduced Teyl.

Bollock stared at Teyl in amazement for a bit.

“Is there something?”

When Teyl asked Bollock that, “No, it’s nothing,” and he shook his head, then guided us to the office.

The office is at the end of the shipyard, and the shelves and tables are cluttered with tools, design drawings, and the like.

“Anyway, we’re asking for the cleaning of the shipyard and extermination of the masmascarl.”

So saying, he showed me the shipyard’s blueprint.

“There’s also need for extermination in a separate building, so could you start with

that first?”

“Roger.”

“Do you have any questions?”

“Where are meals held?”

Teyl asked.

“We pretty much go to the town’s restaurants. For the record, the separate building also has a kitchen, but no one uses it now.”

“What is the separate building used for?”

I inquired of Bollock.

“Dorms for the younger workers, but when the masmaskarl came there were guys who got sick, so we called you guys.”

“I see. Then we should get to work immediately.”

“If you need anything, call one of the workers.”

“Ok.”

Bollock went out into the shipyard, and I made arrangements with Teyl.

For now, I will clean and exterminate the other building, and Teyl would put the shipyard in order.

We hadn’t eaten lunch so I thought we’d eat first, but it turned into doing so after tidying the other building’s cafeteria and kitchen.

After about 1 hour I will go to meet up with Teyl; I headed to the other building.

The other building was about the same size as the shipyard, and looks to be made to be a 3-story apartment building.

With the Search Skill I understood that there was a sizeable amount of masmaskarl.

The cafeteria and kitchen really appeared to be unused; dust had settled.

The dust was cleansed in an instant with Cleanup, and I installed traps in the rooms’ corners.

The kitchen was also cluttered with dirtied pots and pans, and the tableware was

pretty much insufficient. I washed a large bucket, and in the tableware and pots went.

Within the bucket I drew a magic circle, and hot water rained in, becoming an automatic dishwasher.

With this, even the filth that Cleanup couldn't take care of would be cleaned.

So that masmascarl and bagroaches won't enter the kitchen, I scattered a scent that monsters dislike.

After using Cleanup on the lobby and stairs and installing traps, 1 hour already passed, and I went to meet up with Teyl.

Teyl had pretty much already put the shipyard in order, and was sweeping within with a broom.

I used Cleanup on the shipyard, and the two of us took a late lunch.

In the other building's kitchen, Teyl made a soup with the leftover vegetables from the Item Bag and grilled the Field Boar meat that Ayl had hunted during our journey.

The scent lured in Bollock who came over and was surprised at the cafeteria and kitchen that had become clean.

He was staring longingly at the food Teyl made, so,

"Want to eat?" when I asked,

"Is that ok!? Hang on, I'll buy some bread, so"

and off he went.

When Teyl had dished up the food on the insufficient tableware, Bollock had returned after buying 3 large, hard breads.

"Delicious! I haven't had such delicious food before!"

Bollock highly praised Teyl's cooking.

Was she embarrassed? Teyl ate silently.

The meal over, I left cleaning up the tableware to Teyl and went to the other building's upper floors to clean and install traps.

I entered the room with the workers who were sick with a knock and, after using Cleanup, I sprinkled the workers lying on the bed with a little Recovery Medicine.

When I had just finished the 3rd floor's rooms by myself, Teyl came over to help.

Since there wasn't anyone on the 2nd floor, I opened all of the rooms' doors and used Cleanup for it all.

There are rooms on both sides of the corridor, so I and Teyl are each responsible for installing traps on one side.

On the 1st floor, aside from the cafeteria and kitchen, is also a bath; that also seems to be unused, so I subsequently cleaned it.

When I used the Search Skill, the masmaskarl nest is below the bath so I carefully cleaned, stuffed a nozzle in the crack in the wall and sprayed rodent-icide (poison rat dumplings dissolved in water).

When I went into the cafeteria, there were already a number of them in the traps, so while they were still alive I cut off their tails and stuffed them in a bag.

Come to think of it, Velsa might be able to use masmaskarl and the like for research; as I thought that, I used Cleanup on the bag.

"Today, I'll be returning having done this much. Tomorrow I'll retrieve the traps that were installed, and exterminate the ones still alive, so..."

When I went to the shipyard's office and told that to Bollock, Bollock made a sad face.

"I see... but, tommorrow you'll come! Right? Then it's fine!"

Was he unable to forget Teyl's cooking? He keeps glancing over at Teyl.

Teyl is Teyl, so her face turned red.

No way, middle-aged love?

"If it's alright with you, how about having Teyl make dinner? If the sick workers get up, it would be better to have something for them to eat."

“However Naoki-sama’s dinner...”

“Oo-! That would be great!!”

Bollock said so with a face full of smiles.

“I ate before. And I’m going to drop by Velsa’s house for a bit.”

“I... is that so.”

Just in case, I handed Teyl the cane I made for self-defense during my trip.

If you put a little magic into the cane it will give off an electric shock, so I guess it’s a replacement for a stungun.

I don’t think Bollock would assault her, but it’s better to be safe than not.

“Once you’re done, head back to the inn first.”

I can’t put monsters(live) in the Item Bag, so I slung the bag with the masmascarls in them on my shoulder.

“Understood.”

With Teyl seeing me off, I left the shipyard.

The sky was dyed red.

“Hm? What’s up? Did you leave something?”

When I went to Velsa’s house, the owner came out sleepily.

“My bad, may bad, you were sleeping, huh? Na, well, I thought you could use masmascarl to research, so I brought them.”

So saying, I showed her the bag with about 10 masmascarl in it.

“Oo-! This will help!”

“For now, they’ve been cleaned of filth with Cleanup, so how about it?”

“You can do anything, Naoki. Over here; I have small cages.”

Velsa invited me in, and we went through the room that was raising flora.

In a corner of the room was a small pen; so that's where they're going to go in.

"Their tails are cut off for the proof of subjugation."

I said as I released the masmascarl within.

"Aa, no problem. But you did well to catch this many masmascarl alive."

"It's my job, you know?"

"You said it was extermination, so I thought you'd kill them."

"Most of the die, though; here."

I showed Velsa a sticky board.

"What is this~!!"

Velsa touched the sticky board and was surprised.

"If it's a small monster, this can catch them. If you set them in the corners of rooms, the next will have at least 3 stuck to them."

"This is great!"

"If you need others for research then tell me. I'll only get them as they come, though."

"...Wait, wait! Even if you say you'll get them, you already gave me money; helping anymore than this would be bad!"

Velsa waved both hands in agitation.

"Nono, it's fine. It's a plus for me too if I get to know about monsters' ecology."

"Is... is that how it is? You won't ask for the favor back later?"

Velsa asked with tears in her eyes.

"I won't, I won't. It really is just simple curiosity, and, since it's useful, prior investment for when I exterminate all sorts of monsters."

"Is Naoki a messenger from heaven? Or a demon's friend?"

"No, well, I'm just an adventurer."

Velsa folded her arms and thought.

“Then, using these masmascarl I want to investigate the effects of magic stones. It’s fine if the magic stones are in tiny fragments, so can you make the preparations?”

“Magic stone powder. I do certainly have that.”

So saying I rummaged through the Item Bag, and placed a number of bottles of magic stone powder and those dissolved in water on the table.

“Hang on! What is in that bag?”

Velsa said as she peeked in at the contents of the Item Bag.

Ayl and I made the Item Bag, so Velsa shouldn’t be able to see it as anything but an empty bag with a magic circle drawn on it.

“Aa, this is a bit of a special bag. It’s my secret tool.”

“You can put things in, no matter how much?”

The round-eyed Velsa asked as she looked at the Item Bag as if she was looking at gemstones.

“Maa, well, yeah. If too many people know about it it’ll become a problem, so keep it a secret. By the way, I and only one other person can use it.”

“Is... is that so?”

Disappointed, Velsa’s shoulders drooped.

“What’s wrong?”

“No, if I had that bag, I thought, couldn’t I join an exploration party and get on a ship...”

“Aa, there’s that sort of need too.”

“You can!?”

“No, monsters are impossible for the Item Bag. But, I see. If you do that, then it would be fine even if the ship is small. If I look at it that way...”

I think about remodeling a small boat.

“Ship?”

Velsa asked me, who was looking off into the distance, thinking.

“Un, maa, only if I can. Anyway, this is magic stone powder and the powder dissolved

in water.”

“Aa, if this research goes well, I might be able to make artificial magic stones.”

“That’s amazing. I’m looking forward to it.”

So saying, I left the room.

“Sorry for waking you. Then, see you.”

“Aa, see you tomorrow.”

Leaving the house of Velsa, waving her hand, behind, I headed to the inn.

When I dropped in to the Guild to exchange (the tails) for money and returned to the inn, the lodging was already paid for.

When I went to the room, Ayl was sleeping in the shape“大”.

“Welcome back. It seems she was the champion.”

Seems like Teyl has also come back already.

“Were you doing work?” (Teyl)

I took off my coverall and asked Teyl in my T-shirt and shorts.

“Un. How was it at the shipyard?”

“Head-san was praising it loudly, so the workers gathered in the cafeteria and Head-san sent them to buy things. Here is what remains.”

Teyl pulled out a pasta-like dish with seafood in it.

“How is Velsa-san?”

“Un, maa, I think she was happy. And about a ship, it’s fine if it’s small, but I want one. Tomorrow let’s try asking Bollock about how much the price would be.”

“Understood.”

I’m thinking that if I make a sub-space on a ship, then even if it’s small a ship could make a voyage.

I can also probably produce speed using a magic circle.

It would probably be fine for the room's size to be for several people.

Ayl was the champion so she'll board a different ship, so this will be necessary.

"I see, so I will also split with Ayl."

"What's wrong?"

Teyl asked as she peered in the face of I, who muttered to myself.

"No, well Ayl won so she'll be getting on a ship and traveling somewhere else, I thought."

"Are you lonely?"

"I wonder. She's not actually gone yet so I can't really tell the feeling. Maa, a journey is for ichio-ichie."¹

"Ichio-ichie'?"

"Treasure every encounter, basically."

Teyl nodded as she cleaned up the tableware from after I finished eating.

As for me, I began reading 'Lisa's Monster Notebook'.

Along with Ayl's sleep-breathing, the night grew long.

Chapter 26

The next day, I awake with the blade of a sword glistening in the morning sun against my throat.

In front of me I see a bearded warrior I have never seen before.

“Yo, good morning. So what is this about?”

“You are charged with the crime of rebellion against the state. Obediently come to the Lord’s manor.”

Ayl’s mouth is sneering, but Teyl’s face is becoming blue.

“You! What is so funny?”

A man clothed in black thrust a blade at Ayl.

“Ah, no, my bad. It’s better not to rouse that man too much. Because the country will probably be overthrown.”

Ayl said while stifling a grin, looking at me.

“It’s not really calm this morning, na.”

I said and grasped the blade at my throat.

The blade seemed easy to bend, so I pushed back suitably.

The bearded warrior’s entire body was stiffened, so he fell on top of the bed.

I checked Ayl and Teyl’s wrists to ensure that the Revival Misangas were still tied.

For now it seems that they weren’t going to die.

I got up from the bed, grasped the knife blade that was thrust at Teyl and easily broke the blade.

The face of the warrior who fell went red; he stood up and held his blade against the bed that no one was in.

I turned to the man who had frozen in front of Teyl while grasping the blade.

“I’ll ask for you not to point this kind of thing against my slave, please?”

When I spoke, the men finally realized that I had moved and looked over.

I guess their eyes couldn’t keep up.

“Then...”

I drew a magic circle at the feet of the men, and when the men realized it, the three men were restrained from the neck down.

“Right. For now, Teyl, let’s eat breakfast.”

Teyl seemed relieved, let out a sigh, and with a “Understood,” she began making sandwiches on the table.

“Oi, what is this!?”

“I can’t move!”

“What happened!?”

I ignored the men, took out my coverall from the closet, and put it on.

Ayl stole the weapons of the men from their hands.

“And so, what do we do with these guys?”

Ayl asked.

“Taking everything they have and tossing them out the window would be fine, right?”

I said while stuffing a sandwich in my mouth.

I know that the men’s faces twitched.

“Ahahahaha! Let’s do it! Strip them completely bare and throw them out together!”

As Ayl laughed delightedly, the blood drained from the men’s faces.

“For now, it’s fine as long as we go to the Lord’s manor, right?”

“...Yes!”

Again, the men were surprisingly well-behaved when threatened.

As we ate sandwiches, we had the half-naked men give us an explanation.

Somehow, it seems that the money I gave for Velsa's support is the origin.

It seems that Velsa is the previous Lord's daughter.

We're suspected of wanting to use Velsa in order to raise a rebellion, and that's what the financial support was for.

"In the first place, how was the fact that I gave money to Velsa found out?"

"That's, uh..."

The current Lord is wary of the citizens' revolt and is very fearful; they said he's especially wary of Velsa.

And also, an outsider shouldn't be allowed to win the competition, so an order for Ayl's execution was made, they said.

"Then it seems a little punishment is in order, ne. Teyl, go on ahead to the shipyard and wait for me. Because I'm going to drop by the Lord's mansion."

"Understood."

We parted with Teyl in front of the inn, and the 5 of us went off to the Lord's manor.

The Lord's subordinates who intruded into our room were in a single loincloth with their hands tied together and connected by a rope.

Ayl has the end of rope and she's yelling things like, "Faster, faster, come on!"

The townspeople are watching with curious eyes; they attacked people in their sleep, so it's fitting punishment.

They could tell that it was the Lord's men immediately and it was early in the morning so the curious onlookers increased steadily; behind Ayl and me a procession began to form.

It's a bother when they throw stones and wine bottles from the sides of the road, so I drew a magic circle on the bodies of the Lord's men to raise their defense.

The citizens who heard the commotion made a path to the Lord's mansion.

The Lord's mansion was a little ways out from the town in a quiet neighborhood, but right now there were the curious onlookers so it was noisy.

I opened the iron lattice gate of the stone gateway and entered the site.

Are all the Lords' mansions made the same? It's like the mansion where I exterminated the vespahornets in Kubenia.

"Excuse me!"

When Ayl yelled, from within the mansion a gentleman in true butler garb and a white mustache appeared.

His posture was elegant, so he felt refined.

"What can I do for you? Everyone, could you possibly be revolting?"

He said that with a gentleman's smile.

"No. I believe it might be a mistake, but these people attacked us in our sleep. When we asked they said they were Lord-sama's subordinates, so is that so? I didn't think that they'd possibly be these kinds of weaklings, but I brought them here just in case for confirmation."

I also countered with a smile.

I've already deployed the Search Skill.

Within are maids and butlers gathered around the windows, and the person I think to be the Lord is confronting someone within a room.

"Let me see."

The gentleman carefully looked at the Lord's men and,

"I do not remember hiring people like these half-naked men. Do with them as you wish."

"" No way!""

The subordinates all yelled together.

"Silence."

The gentlemen released his bloodlust at once, and the half-naked men cowered.

It was a splendid bloodlust.

Ayl is in a state where it seems she can't bear it, looking downwards with silent laughter.

This is why battle junkies are troublesome.

"Do you intend to smear more mud on the Lord's face? You dogs."

The subordinates are unable to say anything.

"Then I will turn these people to cinders. By the way, has a scholar by the name of Velsa intruded into this mansion? She's a friend."

"I am unable to answer that question."

"Then I will be confirming it myself."

I walked by the gentleman's side towards the mansion.

When the gentleman went to grab me by the nape of the neck, Ayl stopped him with her scabbard.

"Stop! You are illegally trespassing!"

The gentleman overturned Ayl's scabbard with a knife he had and, brandishing it, went towards me.

Ayl slashed diagonally at him from behind and the gentleman dodged to the side with his light body.

Like that, Ayl swung her sword sideways. That, the gentleman dodged.

"This gramps, you're stronger than the guys from yesterday's competition!"

Ayl delightedly attacked as she yelled.

"I'm leaving this to you."

"Aa, no problem!"

With the sound of Ayl's sword and the gentleman's knife ringing, from the onlookers, admiring voices of "Oo—!" and similar voices rose up.

When I had reached as far as the mansion's front door, on the opposite side the maids

had rushed the door.

“I’m forcing through-!”

I called to the people within and pushed the door.

A silver candle-stick like thing was used to bar the door, but I seriously pushed the door so the hinges gave way and the maids fell to the floor.

I lifted the door overhead with one arm, and with the other hand I drew a magic circle.

In an instant the door lit up in flames.

“””Kya-!”

The fallen maids screamed at the sudden light.

Immediately, the door had become cinders.

“Could you let me through-?”

Flustered, the maids opened up a path for me.

My aim is the Lord’s room.

Along the way, butler-like men were attacking, but because I was wearing the coverall, neither slashing nor bashing attacks work.

For now, let’s defeat the attacking butlers.

When I defeated them there was a cracking sound, so I guess bones are being broken.

“Do you intend to rebel with just 3 people!?”

A butler who was watching his companions be defeated said.

“No, I’m just retrieving my friend.”

I finally reach the front of the Lord’s room.

When I knocked and opened the door, a ball of fire hit my chest.

Of course I’ve bestowed my coverall to be fireproof, so there wasn’t any damage at all.

The quite fat Lord was pointing a staff towards me.

To wipe the ashes off, I wiped the spot the fireball had struck me and, to Velsa standing in the middle of the room,

“Yo, Velsa. Morning. I came to get you,”

and with a face full of smiles I lifted my hand with a greeting.

“Why are you here!?”

Velsa saw me and was surprised.

“No, well, I was thinking that you would be here. Did anything happen to you?”

“Nuh uh, nothing happened. It’s just, they’re asking me if I have the intentions to rebel.”

“I see. If they had touched just one of your fingers I had the intention of setting this mansion on fire, though...”

At my words, the Lord flapped his mouth open and close, then,

“Just try killing me! The Capital will send their troops!”

So they’ll send their army... so I thought but, when I was thinking I’d exterminate the troops from the Capital, I thought it’d come around and be a bother to Sera who was studying magic at the Capital.

“It’s alright. They really didn’t do anything. They only asked for a response. There’s no reason to be here any longer.”

Velsa said.

“Then let’s go.”

Velsa nodded and we went towards the door.

“You, you do understand what will happen from now on? You won’t be able to live in this country!”

The Lord suddenly fired off those words at us.

Velsa stopped in her tracks and returned,

“Why are ships only sold to the nobles? Why is it that only the same people can board the ships?”

The Lord was confused to silence by Velsa’s question.

“That was the answer I wanted to know... however, I’ve had enough. I will find it out myself. Let’s go.”

Velsa took my hand left the room.

“Hahaha! You guys don’t know about that monster! As if anyone is able to go to new lands!!”

The Lord said that to our backs.

Without turning back, we left the mansion.

In the garden Ayl is bullying the gentleman.

“Ya don’t got enough stamina! Just training techniques; go running! Running-!”

The gentleman is being kicked in the ass while running around the outer circumference of the grounds.

The townspeople are laughing and cheering on the gentleman.

“O, I’m back.”

Noticing us coming outside, Ayl came running over.

“Velsa! Long time no see!”

“Ayl! You came to this town!?”

“Rather than coming, I’m the one who told Naoki about Velsa, you know.”

“Really!?”

The two look at me.

Oh yeah, I didn’t say anything about it.

“Aside from that, Ayl. Seems like we’ve become wanted. Lets hurry and go to sea!”(naoki)

“Got it!”(ayl)

“Velsa, you also get your stuff together; won’t you come to sea with us?”

“Un, I will!”

For the time being we will go to Velsa's house, and from there we will go to the shipyard to meet up with Teyl.

At long last the curious bystanders also began to disperse, and an exhausted atmosphere drifted about the Lord's manor.

Chapter 27

We're at Velsa's home.

"My father was the Lord of this region..."

While Velsa was gathering her luggage, she began to tell Ayl and me her story.

Ayl and I also packed luggage under Velsa's instructions.

What Velsa told us was that it was said 5 years ago, magma flowed from the mountain of a nearby village.

At first it had pretty much no vigor so it was treated as a famous tourist's spot, but all of a sudden it gushed out and the village began to be overflowed with it.

Velsa's father also made preparations to protect the village, but he didn't make it in time; the village's trade had flat plains to dry salt, so the magma devoured it.

The Lord sent reparation money to the villagers facing reconstruction, but before it reached the villagers, thieves stole it. They sent it once again to the villagers, but that was stolen as well.

In the end, because it was a time when the territory was screaming with financial difficulties, the finances were tight so dealing with the villagers was slow, and so Velsa's father's abilities with crisis management was denounced and was made to resign.

And there the current Lord came from the Capital, she said.

The current Lord gave preferential treatment to nobles and held things like fighting tournaments; he rebuilt the finances at once, but was harsh on the populace and was hated and the like.

Velsa's father is working as a noble's aide in the Capital, but because he was able to do the work despite it being excessive, among the nobles in the Capital it was written in a letter to Velsa that why Velsa's father had to retire from being a Lord was beginning to be suspected.

Velsa also said that after that letter came from the Capital, the surveillance from the current Lord became stricter.

“I don’t care, but it gets in the way of research!!! And my father also! He doesn’t send money! Naoki, is it fine for me to come along with you for awhile!?”

“Un, I also had that thought. I’ll be in your care.”

I shoved the luggage into the Item Bag.

Velsa lifted up a giant backpack and carried a potted plant.

In the backpack are Velsa’s precious research materials.

“I’ll carry all of this,” Velsa said.

Leaving Velsa’s home, we head to the shipyard.

We, who have suddenly become famous, wave our hands at the people in town, and are thrust bread and wine.

There was a crowd of people at the entrance of the shipyard.

They were pretty much all workers, peaking inside from the crack in the door.

“What happened?”

I said such, and everyone looked at me in surprise, then came begging.

“Please somehow, overlook this just this once!”

“This is the biggest gamble of Boss’ life!”

“Please! Please!”

The workers clung to me with that and the like, so for now I’ll have them calm down and explain the situation.

“Truth is, see. Boss fell in love with Teyl-san...”

“And right now they’ve got a good mood going...”

“We can’t get in the middle of it...”

“No, well of course we want to help Boss out and we want him to find happiness, but Teyl’s master is you.”

“So how about it? What price can we give you for her?”

The desperate workers also touched my heart.

When I conveyed that I originally was going to release her from slavery when she found a place to live, they began to get noisy.

“Oi! You guys, they got a good mood going on, right!? Don’t make so much noise!”

Ayl scolded the workers, and all mouths went shot, and once again they peaked inside from the crack in the door.

Using Search Skill I could see that the two were walking around the ship being made.

I sat on some wood left outside to wait.

“I’m glad it looks like Teyl found her place to live.”

Ayl said.

Velsa also lowered her luggage and sat next to me.

“Yesterday I had thought that it would be Ayl we’d be parting from.”

“Although I won the fighting tournament, it looks like fate won’t let me board that ship after all.”

So saying, Ayl drew the sword on her hip.

I knew from Search Skill, but about 10 people were drawing near from the harbor.

The men with rough appearances from the sea are each carrying their specialized weapons in their hands.

I gave them a glance, and then began to discuss lunch with Velsa.

“Which one of yous is Ayl?! We’re gonna *guh*-!”

The moment one of the rough men yelled, the back of Ayl’s sword exploded forth.

After that, when you think you’ve heard the men scream, there was the sound like hitting meat and bones crushing.

10 seconds later, Ayl had returned to my side, checking that her blade wasn’t nicked.

“With Teyl gone we’ll be troubled with food, naa. Velsa, can you cook?”

“Do I look like I can?”

Velsa said while resting her chin on her hand.

“That’s true.”

“It’d be good if we kidnapped someone from the Lord’s house.”

Ayl said as she put her sword in her scabbard.

“It’s indispensable for a journey, naa. Maybe I should really take that Skill.”

At the moment I muttered that, the workers in front of the shipyard raised a loud voice.

“Looks like it went well over there.”

“That’s great, that’s great.”

From the door Teyl came out and came to me to explain the situation.

She apologized that it was sudden, but could I release her from slavery? Is what she said.

I acknowledged it on the spot and erased the slave seal.



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